

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

**TRACK II NETWORK OF ASEAN DEFENCE AND SECURITY INSTITUTIONS  
(NADI) WORKSHOP**

**“Strengthening Defence Diplomacy: Challenges and Prospects of ADMM”**

**5-8 November 2019**

**Quest Plus Conference Center, Clark, Philippines**

**Introduction**

1. The Track II Network of ASEAN Defence and Security Institutions (NADI) Workshop on “Strengthening Defence Diplomacy: Challenges and Prospects of ADMM” was co-organised by the National Defense College of the Philippines (NDCP), and the Office for Strategic Studies and Strategy Management, Armed Forces of the Philippines (OSSSM, AFP). It was held at Quest Hotel and Conference Center, Clark, Philippines on 5-8 November 2019.
2. The representatives from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam attended the Workshop. The list of the participants is at **Annex I**. The workshop was co-chaired by Brig Gen Rolando G Jungco AFP (Ret), Executive Vice President, NDCP; and Brig Gen Ignacio B Madriaga AFP, Chief, OSSSM, AFP.

**Welcome Remarks by Brig Gen Rolando G Jungco AFP (Ret), Executive Vice President, NDCP, and Chair, NADI Workshop on “Strengthening Defence Diplomacy: Challenges and Prospects of ADMM”**

3. In his remarks, Brig Gen Rolando G Jungco AFP (Ret) noted that NADI was established as a think tank group to support ADMM and its Track II character allows participants to discuss defence and security issues that the ASEAN Summit and the ADMM have raised, as well as fresh ideas and issues that are ahead of the curve that can contribute further in enhancing ADMM cooperation and its cooperation with the external countries through the ADMM-Plus. Indeed, as the Terms of Reference (TOR) provides, NADI members are encouraged to discuss issues and ideas in their personal capacities and even go beyond their national positions to suggest relevant inputs and policy recommendations.
4. After noting a brief overview of the workshop, Brig Gen Jungco said he looked forward to a fruitful discussion and exchange among the participants.

**Welcome Remarks by Brig Gen Ignacio B Madriaga AFP, Chief, OSSSM, AFP, and Co-Chair, NADI Workshop on “Strengthening Defence Diplomacy: Challenges and Prospects of ADMM”**

5. In his remarks, Brig Gen Ignacio B Madriaga AFP welcomed the participants to Clark, formerly the location of the largest US military air base post-World War II era. One of the purposes of ASEAN is to maintain its centrality and its proactive role as the primary driving force in its relations and cooperation with its external partners, in a regional architecture that is open, transparent, and most especially inclusive. Brig Gen Madriaga emphasised the importance of ASEAN-led mechanisms that enhances ASEAN centrality through the promotion of rules-based defence cooperation, especially at a time of rapidly changing international security landscape such as today. Deliberate observation and assessment of the gap between what is being done and what still needs to be addressed, is of greatest importance. ASEAN needs to be at the forefront of all matters that seriously affects the common interest of ASEAN. It needs to be actively shaping the narrative and agenda for discussion on matters of collective defence and security of its member states. The regional organisation needs to be a credible platform to which external partners may engage, for further multilateral defence cooperation.
6. In closing, the Chief, OSSSM, AFP expressed his hope for a productive and substantive workshop.

**Adoption of Agenda**

7. The meeting adopted the agenda and the programme attached in **Annex II** and **Annex III** respectively.

**Overview of the Workshop**

8. The Track II NADI Workshop on “Strengthening Defence Diplomacy: Challenges and Prospects of ADMM” focused on three major objectives, namely: 1) to discuss the norms and principles for defence and security cooperation. 2) to identify the major areas of cooperation of the ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting (ADMM); and 3) to exchange views on how defence diplomacy in ASEAN could be enhanced.

**Session One: Norms and principles for defence and security cooperation**

**Brunei**

*Presentation by Ms Nor Azriah Binti Haji Abdul Aziz, Research Officer, Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (SHHBIDSS)*

9. Ms Nor Azriah Binti Haji Abdul Aziz, in her presentation, highlighted three relevant norms and principles in ADMM and the challenges in sustaining the

norms and principles against the dynamics of strategic relations and security challenges. Firstly, she focused on the importance of consensus-based decision making at the highest levels. The layers of consensus-based consultations ensure all members have a say, which underscores the significance of cooperation substantively. Secondly, the ADMM's Plus countries have continued to strengthen their engagements and interactions with ASEAN. This is highlighted with Australia's continued engagement as the oldest dialogue partner and the sustained momentum of ASEAN with China and the US. The interests of non-Plus countries to participate in ADMM Plus also points to ASEAN's growing strategic value to the other countries. Thirdly, ADMM continues to be committed and supportive in addressing shared regional security concerns. Further to this, the formalisation of military meetings also provides further opportunities towards more cohesive and coordinated approach from the strategic to operational level.

10. In moving forward, she reiterated that ASEAN centrality remains important as a primary driving force in the ADMM and ADMM-Plus in dealing with the challenges and opportunities in the region. She recommends the following: First, to stock take its development by reassessing and prioritising ADMM's EWGs seven major areas of cooperation to further focus and streamline efforts of cooperation and improve interoperability. Second, to take a much more proactive role in ADMM-Plus especially in endorsing initiatives that do not necessarily have to be endorsed by Plus members and at the same time not be influenced or impeded by major power politics. Third, to address the interest of other non-ASEAN countries to be part of ADMM-Plus through another platform such as the existing Track 1.5 or Track 2 platforms as it is observed that the proliferation of meetings in Track 1 would also likely see similar trends in Track 2.

## **Cambodia**

*Presentation by Brig Gen Sopheap Ngor, Deputy Director, Department of ASEAN Affairs, Ministry of National Defense*

11. In his presentation, Brig Gen Sopheap Ngor noted that there are three challenges make it difficult for military diplomacy to resolve the conflict. First, the uncertainty of the strategic environment, the lack of living in community and the absence of cooperation measures in conflict is the why conflict spreads that are often the result of misrepresentation and confusion. Second, the problem is the lack of sense of community. If a state does not view itself as a part of community and distrust itself, then only military strength can guarantee its security. Third, conflict spreads may also be the result of lack of state-to-state communication rules.
12. There are two concepts adopted by 13<sup>th</sup> ADMM, Concept Paper on the role of ASEAN Defence Establishments in Supporting Border Management and Term of Reference (TOR) ASEAN Our Eyes. Military capacities and skills are feature that can strengthen cooperation in dealing with challenges. Cooperated contribution within ADMM-Plus EWGs are interactions to combat non-traditional issues and maintaining close relationships to regional peace

and stability. ASEAN Military is a stand-alone, collaborative effort to build mutual trust in order to avoid regional pressure and address common challenges. The ADMM framework is an excellent mechanism for all of states to exchange views on regional security issues.

## **Indonesia**

*Presentation by Lt Col Muh Jajar, Head of Sub Director, Center for Strategic Studies, TNI*

13. In his presentation, Lt Col Muh Jajar noted that defence and security cooperation to enhance defence diplomacy carried out by ASEAN countries is a form of mutual responsibility for regional security stability. In defence and security cooperation, ASEAN has facilitated norms and principles to be used as guidelines, so that environment within ASEAN community who respect and trust each other, as well as not interfere to each country internal affairs can be manifested.
14. In anticipating the development of the strategic environment and its influence on defence and security in the region, it is urgently needed to increase cooperation in defence diplomacy and continue to build mutual respect and trust by referring to the norms and principles of cooperation agreed by all ASEAN countries which at last will lead to the creation of a comprehensive defence cooperation of ASEAN. Therefore, it should be scheduled at the ADMM to facilitate the formulation of policies regarding: a) Maintaining defence cooperation in form of coordinated patrol among countries in the region, and if possible, to expand it by involving all ASEAN countries to safeguard transnational pathway from all possibilities of crime acts, so as to create partnerships and solidarity among ASEAN countries which in turn can create regional security stability; and b) develop effective working program through existing platform under ASEAN framework while taking into account ASEAN norms and principles regarding the optimisation of defence cooperation, so that the steps taken will have new breakthroughs in accordance with the development of the strategic environment and changes in the threat paradigm as well as positive impact to the stability of regional security.

*Presentation by Brig Gen Jonni Mahroza, Vice Dean, Indonesia Defense University*

15. In his presentation, Brig Gen Jonni Mahroza noted that ASEAN's norms and principles for cooperation prevail in all areas, including in defence and security cooperation. Among the most important ones are non-interference, consensus-based decision-making, national and regional resilience, respect for national sovereignty, the renunciation of the threat or the use of force, and peaceful settlement of differences and disputes. These norms and principles were restated in the Declaration of Bali Concord II on 7 October 2003, and in line with the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok, 1967), the Declaration on Zone of Peace, Freedom, and Neutrality (Kuala Lumpur, 1971), the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (Bali, 1976), the Declaration of ASEAN Concord (Bali, 1976), and the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons

Free Zone (Bangkok, 1995), as well as with the UN Charter and other principles of international law.

16. In order to follow the agreed norms and principles, ADMM should aim its agenda and initiatives toward common security issues, such as non-traditional, transnational security issues. It should avoid issues which are domestic in nature and sensitive to certain AMS' sovereignty matters. Not only in choosing the issues, but also in approaching them that ADMM should abide with ASEAN ways of consensus-based mechanism and peaceful solution. Furthermore, against a changing strategic environment and ASEAN should strengthen the commitment of its member states, that ASEAN's norms and principles are treated as prerequisites for their external interactions. Only this strong commitment will enforce ASEAN's centrality in an evolving regional security architecture. Failure to keep this commitment will likely jeopardise the relevance of ASEAN's key norms and principles, thus ASEAN's centrality.

## **Lao PDR**

*Presentation by Lt Col Souksan Khaiphom, Deputy Director of the Office, Military Science and History Department (MHSD), Ministry of National Defence*

17. Lt Col Souksan Khaiphom highlighted that convening the ADMM is one of the remarkable accomplishments in ASEAN's efforts to construct a political-security community, for the purpose of promoting conflict prevention and confidence building. Although the ADMM is indeed an interesting and important mechanism worth extensively exploring with regard to not only ASEAN's external relations through multilateralism, but also to its internal evolution, there has been a paucity of academic literature on this subject. Also, it has focused mainly on defence diplomacy from a comparative perspective, lacking detailed analyses on the platform's origins and its trajectory of development. Therefore, Lt Col Souksan Khaiphom explored the ADMM especially ASEAN's purpose to launch a meeting of defence ministers in terms of community building, the evolution of the ADMM with the ensuing establishment of its enlarged version – the ADMM, and the significance of the ADMM from a comparative perspective.
18. Lt Col Souksan Khaiphom also explained that the expertise of Southeast Asia region is still disputing over how ASEAN constructs its defence and security cooperation. Many of them consider ASEAN as an ineffective regional organisation, let alone building a comprehensive defence and security cooperation. However, pessimistic view of ASEAN does not really influence its commitment to build wider and deeper cooperation. Security consisted of political, military, economic and social factors interacting at all levels of analysis. The meeting states that it is important to note that ASEAN is not a military alliance and since its inception, it has aspired to comprehensive security cooperation in the broadest sense of the term (ASEAN Security Community: An Initiative for Peace and Stability). This means that, although traditional issue in the beginning, ASEAN has already been aware of the change in security concept and it can be observed on the discussion of ASEAN Political-Security Community discourse.

## **Singapore**

*Presentation by Ms Lee YingHui, Associate Research Fellow, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore*

19. Ms Lee YingHui highlighted the norms and principles governing defence and security cooperation in the region. The ASEAN Way forms the basic guiding principle for cooperation. The well-established norms of consensus decision-making, informal diplomacy, non-interference and respect for sovereignty helps encourage cooperation based on the principles of equality and mutual respect.
20. Ms Lee also emphasised how ASEAN, and ADMM in particular, can continue to ensure its relevance in the face of changing regional security architecture through improving functional cooperation, strengthening its convening power, and strengthening unity among ASEAN Member States (AMS). Ms Lee proposed the following recommendations for consideration: 1) ADMM should encourage greater policy coordination among AMS; and 2) AMS should continue to strengthen mutual trust and unity.

## **Summary of Discussion**

21. Participants noted that ASEAN defence diplomacy has focused largely on non-traditional security cooperation. Guided by its norms and principles, ASEAN must continue to adapt to the evolving regional security environment. ASEAN defence diplomacy platforms have made some initial progress on traditional security cooperation. Such efforts must be made in a cautious and incremental manner so as not to potentially derail cooperation in other areas. Track II platforms and academic engagements may still put forward issues and recommendations on both traditional and non-traditional security issues and cooperation, with the agreement of all parties.
22. The norms and principles that guided ASEAN's diplomatic efforts have contributed to regional peace and stability. In view of the changing strategic contexts, ASEAN unity and centrality must be enhanced. Mindful of the political, economic, and social diversity in the region, confidence-building measures among AMS, as well as external countries, must be strengthened. Practical cooperation among AMS and external countries could further be improved through specific terms of reference in various issue areas.

## **Session Two: ADMM Areas of Cooperation**

### **Malaysia**

*Presentation by Commander Hafiez Azree MD Nor RMN, Deputy Director Comparative Technology, Malaysian Institute of Defence and Security (MiDAS)*

23. In his presentation, Commander Hafiez Azree MD Nor RMN noted that ADMM and ADMM Plus have been an important platform for a constructive defence

and security cooperation in this region. Since the establishment of both mechanisms, Malaysia remains committed to the seven Expert Working Group and its Plus members. However, in light of new shifts that are reshaping security priorities like major power rivalry, AMS needs to do a stock-take of ADMM and ADMM-Plus activities, exploring gaps in the processes, directions to take, and provide a clear road map that will accommodate the interests of ASEAN in addressing strategic and new challenges on regional security. ASEAN diversity can be a challenge during decision making processes when managing multilateral security platforms such as ADMM and ADMM Plus.

24. Regional security concerns like the SCS issue involve multiple actors with varying degrees of interest vis-à-vis regional interests. Other security problems such as the humanitarian crisis which is causing the influx of displaced refugees to some states, require a holistic action plan. AMS should continue emphasizing ASEAN centrality in dealing with regional security concerns. Track II platforms such as NADI should engage in more robust discussions in order to explore all strategic considerations. Some recommendations that can be considered to address some of these challenges are: First, prioritisation in area of cooperation. More time and effort should be given in the area that will give a bigger impact to the regional security. Since the majority of AMS are maritime nations, maritime security should remain as a key priority. This is due to major geo-strategic and geo-political issues arising from the maritime domain. Enhancing maritime cooperation should be carried out through joint development, identifying risks in the maritime domain especially on non-traditional security threats and promoting wider information sharing. Second, enhance cooperation in reducing the capability gap. Efforts to reduce the capability gap within the AMS in the major area of cooperation will further improve regional cohesion. With the reduced gap, AMS would be comfortable to work together and move forward for greater achievement. Third, adapting United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). UN SDGs have listed 17 targets or goals. The ADMM and ADMM plus could play a vital role in achieving this goal via its expert working groups.

## **Philippines**

*Presentation by Prof Charithie B Joaquin, Chief, Research and Special Studies Division, NDCP*

25. In her presentation, Prof Charithie B Joaquin discussed an overview of the areas of cooperation in ADMM, as well as with the Plus-countries. As part of the efforts in building the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC), the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) was founded in 2006. Among others, the ADMM has the objective of "promot[ing] regional peace and stability through dialogue and cooperation in defence and security." While the Protocol to the Concept Paper for the Establishment of the ADMM noted that the defence ministers' grouping would "discuss practical cooperation in traditional and non-traditional security concerns," most of the body's initiatives have focused on non-traditional security cooperation. Indeed, the ADMM's

major areas of cooperation are: Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR); Peacekeeping Operations; Military Medicine; Counter-Terrorism Logistics Support; and Defence Industry Collaboration. Cognisant of ASEAN's effort to create an inclusive architecture that involves external powers, a similar observation can nevertheless be made with respect to ADMM-Plus, which has pursued cooperation on the following areas through Expert Working Groups: HADR; Maritime Security; Military Medicine; Counter-Terrorism; Peacekeeping Operations; Humanitarian Mine Action; and Cyber Security.

26. A key strength of ASEAN is that it has created an overall framework for cooperation on defence and security issues, specifically through the ADMM and ADMM-Plus. Major power competition is increasingly becoming the strategic backdrop of international relations. Hence, there is a need to strengthen the institutional capacity of ASEAN defence diplomacy platforms in view of regional challenges. In conclusion, Prof Joaquin expressed the need to strengthen ADMM and ADMM-Plus through the continued implementation of previous agreements, as well as promote the resilience of ASEAN defence diplomacy platforms.

## **Singapore**

*Presentation by Ms Lee YingHui, Associate Research Fellow, RSIS, NTU, Singapore*

27. Ms Lee YingHui highlighted ADMM's major areas of cooperation. HADR has been an important aspect of ADMM since its inception. Climate change and the increasing incidences of natural disasters in Southeast Asia underscores the importance of HADR cooperation in the future. Terrorism is another crucial area of cooperation within the ADMM, especially given the ongoing risk of returning fighters from the Middle East, and instances of self-radicalization among local populations. Cybersecurity is also an emerging area of cooperation, given the lack of widely-agreed norms of behaviour in the cyber domain.
28. Ms Lee also highlighted the strengths and weaknesses of ADMM. The ADMM has been successful in building trust and confidence among ASEAN Member States. Achievements have also been made in terms of capacity-building in cooperation with Plus countries. However, the lack of synergy between the activities of the ADMM and ADMM-Plus needs to be better addressed. In addition, there is a need to streamline the activities of the seven Experts' Working Groups (EWGs) under the auspice of ADMM-Plus, given the limited resources. Drawing on the various strengths and weaknesses, Ms Lee proposed the following recommendations for consideration: 1) ADMM should continue focusing confidence-building and practical cooperation; 2) ADMM should engage in more capacity-building through the transfer of technical expertise from the Plus countries; and 3) ADMM and ADMM-Plus should work towards streamlining the areas of cooperation.

## **Summary of Discussion**

29. Participants noted the need to enhance cooperation in various issue areas in ASEAN-led defence diplomacy platforms. While expansion of ADMM-Plus Expert Working Groups (EWGs) is an indication of support for ASEAN, improving the work processes for efficient outcomes and identifying and addressing possible overlaps between and among areas of cooperation may be considered. Interoperability among EWGs, as well as establishing other coordination centres, may likewise improve defence diplomacy cooperation in the region. Foresight and flexibility are needed in adapting to the changing security landscape and the emergence of new defence challenges.

## **Session Three: Enhancing ASEAN Defence Diplomacy**

### **Philippines**

*Presentation by Colonel Haroun-Al-Rashid I Jaji INF (GSC) PA, Assistant Chief, OSSSM, AFP*

30. Colonel Haroun-Al-Rashid I Jaji INF (GSC) PA highlighted that ASEAN's defence diplomacy through interoperability and capacity development of the defence sector and militaries has become a driver of mutual understanding in the Southeast Asian region. It is the pursuance of regional peace and security in the face of power dynamics between and among external powers which defines ASEAN's central role in Southeast Asia. ADMM and ADMM-Plus were established in order to promote dialogue and discussion about relevant security issues that threaten regional stability. Both ADMM and Plus countries have long emphasized the need for defence building and cooperation in addressing both traditional and non-traditional security threats. This can be seen in the joint declarations and fundamental mechanisms established since the inception of ADMM and ADMM-Plus.
31. Despite the milestones achieved by ADMM and ADMM-Plus, Colonel Jaji laid out evident discrepancies between the agenda and concerns of ADMM and NADI. Looking into the activities conducted by ADMM and NADI for the past three (3) years, no clear link can be established between NADI's activities and the efforts of ADMM.
32. Emerging in the scene, China's current initiative on institutionalizing an ASEAN-China Defence Think Tank Exchange (ACDTTE) is similar to the concept of NADI. Without active coordination among NADI institutions, this platform may become an alternative which would threaten ASEAN's ability to actively shape the agenda at the Track II level in the region. Thus, the Philippines proposed for institutionalizing a NADI-Plus arrangement instead. An ASEAN-led NADI Plus would reinforce its centrality, as well as promote inclusiveness in the region by allowing other actors to engage with NADI on its terms.

## **Singapore**

*Presentation by Mr Tsjeng Zhizhao, Associate Research Fellow, RSIS, NTU, Singapore*

33. Mr Henrick Z Tsjeng highlighted the ADMM's role in regional architecture. He emphasised the ADMM's function as a platform for defence ministers to engage in confidence building, practical cooperation and dialogue, thereby enhancing cooperation between defence establishments, upholding ASEAN unity and centrality, and giving major powers and external countries a stake in peace and stability in the region.
34. He illustrated the emerging challenges faced by the ADMM and ADMM-Plus. Major powers like US and China may force AMS to take sides as their rivalry for dominance heats up, heightening the risks of a divided ASEAN. Major powers may undermine the national sovereignty of AMS, including through the interference in their domestic affairs. In addition, major powers may divide ASEAN by taking sides in any disputes within ASEAN. In view of these challenges, Mr Tsjeng proposed the following recommendations for consideration: 1) ADMM should continue focusing on non-traditional security; 2) ADMM should maintain ASEAN centrality in the region and not be involved in major power politics; 3) ASEAN should ensure that its norms of non-interference in internal affairs of its member states are upheld to maintain its unity and centrality; and 4) AMS should engage in greater information-sharing and coordination so as to further enhance defence cooperation.

## **Thailand**

*Presentation by Lt Col Tamrongchai Noonpugdee, Attached in Regional Studies Division, Strategic Studies Center (SSC), National Defence Studies Institute (NDSI), Royal Thai Armed Forces Headquarters (RTARF HQs).*

35. In his presentation Lt Col Tamrongchai Noonpugdee noted that defence diplomacy or military diplomacy is not something new, but it has been used through the years. Until now, defence diplomacy has been adopted as a tool to build trust and cooperation in global, regional, and international stages. Many countries are participating in defence diplomacy such as sending military diplomats, meeting, joint military training and exercise as well as participation in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), Peace keeping Operations and Countering transnational crimes and etc. Mostly global defence diplomacy activities have an aim for disputes prevention which might expand to conflicts and pose difficulties for national development and effects to regional and global peace. One of the aims and purposes of ASEAN is to promote regional peace and stability as well as objective to maintain ASEAN centrality. ASEAN Member States (AMS) have been working together to meet the ASEAN aims, purposes and objectives through ASEAN activities. Challenges for ASEAN defence diplomacy are (1) maintaining substantial, continuity and harmony of applying ASEAN defence diplomacy in ASEAN activities, (2) applying ASEAN defence diplomacy as a tool for balance of power and maintaining ASEAN centrality, and (3) focusing on important

ASEAN security threats and issues. Thailand, as the 2019 ASEAN Chairman, focuses on terrorism, transnational crime and Illegal Unreported and Unregulated fishing (IUU) fishing and HADR. Opportunities, by applying ASEAN defence diplomacy, are (1) increasing of relationship, mutual trust, confidence and transparency by working together via ADMM and ADMM-Plus, and (2) enhancing an opportunity to promote ASEAN centrality in global stages.

36. Recommendations are: 1) continuing to develop “the Concept Paper on the Guidelines for the Assessment of the ADMM Initiatives” for maintaining substantial, continuity and harmony of the initiatives of the ADMM and ADMM-Plus; 2) ADMM should foresight together to find out security threats, important issues and future ASEAN security picture for our region in order to adjust ASEAN defence diplomacy to be more compatible, and find appropriate role to maintain ASEAN Centrality; and 3) ADMM should set up Terms of Reference (TOR) in area of cooperation for mutual understand and use as a guide line for implementing ASEAN defence diplomacy, which are already happened such as TOR for ASEAN Militaries Ready Group on HADR or in developing progress like TOR for ASEAN Our Eyes (AOE).

## **Viet Nam**

*Presentation Sr Col Colonel Pham Ngoc Thanh, Director of International Studies, the Institute for Defence Strategy of Viet Nam (IDS)*

37. In his presentation, Sr Col Pham Ngoc Thanh emphasized the role of ADMM as the one of important platforms for defence and security cooperation in Asia - Pacific. Through ADMM, defence cooperation among AMS and between ASEAN and dialogue partners has been increasingly enhanced and expanded contributing to management of common security challenges in the region, especially non-traditional and cross-border security issues. The change of political and security environment in the region and the world has brought in opportunities; and at the same time posed quite a few challenges to ADMM, including the shift of regional geo-politics; major powers rivalry; lack of cohesion among regional security cooperation mechanisms; the rapid change of security issues; the differences between member states.
38. He recommended that, in order to consolidate ADMM’s role in the regional architecture and enhance its effectiveness in dealing with common security challenges, it is necessary to implement synchronically solutions. In which some main solutions could be: 1) Promoting confidence building; 2) Strengthening ASEAN's centrality in regional defence cooperation mechanisms; 3) Maintaining decisive role of ADMM for ADMM+; 4) Promoting the linkage of cooperation initiatives within ADMM and ADMM with other ASEAN-centric security mechanisms; 5) Consolidating the solidarity and unity of ASEAN.

## **Summary of Discussion**

39. Delegates discussed the possibility of involving participants from non-AMS to NADI activities. While some delegates expressed support for the involvement of non-AMS participants, others expressed reservation and noted the need to exercise caution for such an initiative. Some delegates proposed the inclusion of participants from non-ASEAN countries in Track II activities outside NADI.

## **Recommendations to the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM)**

40. The NADI Workshop on “Strengthening Defence Diplomacy: Challenges and Prospects of ADMM” discussed numerous issues focusing on ASEAN’s centrality, the need to streamline efforts and address security concerns in an incremental manner in Track II platforms, among others. In moving forward, NADI recommends the following for ADMM’s consideration:

- a. Strengthen the commitment of ASEAN Member States (AMS) and Plus countries to ASEAN’s norms and principles of defence and security cooperation. Outlined in ASEAN agreements and reaffirmed in ADMM documents, these norms and principles include consensus, consultation, non-interference, respect for sovereignty, renunciation of the threat or use of force, equality, and mutual respect.
- b. Maintain flexibility and adopt an incremental approach to deepen cooperation among ADMM and ADMM-Plus in order to adapt to the evolving regional security environment underpinned by major power competition, and to address emerging security challenges, such as cybersecurity, new technologies, and coercion below the threshold of outright armed conflict.
- c. Strengthen capacity-building and cooperation among AMS and the Plus-countries.
- d. Enhance confidence building measures to ensure ASEAN unity and centrality in the face of increasing geopolitical competition.
- e. Streamline, sustain, and harmonise ADMM initiatives in part through the implementation of the Concept Paper on ADMM and ADMM-Plus Initiatives, and promote synergy between ADMM and ADMM-Plus.
- f. Establish more relevant coordination centres and build linkages between them. ADMM may also consider the adoption of terms of references (TOR) in various defence diplomacy areas of cooperation, similar to the TOR for ASEAN Military Ready Group on HADR.
- g. Sustain the momentum of defence diplomacy through the continued implementation of various agreements, such as the ASEAN Direct Communications Infrastructure (ADI), Guidelines for Maritime

Interaction (GMI), Guidelines for Air Military Encounters (GAME), ASEAN Our Eyes (AOE), ASEAN Defence Establishments in Supporting Border Management, Principles for ADMM-wide Education and Training Exchanges, among others.

### **Other Matters**

41. The participants discussed the NADI activities for the year 2020.

### **Upcoming Track II NADI Activities**

42. Viet Nam will host the 13<sup>th</sup> NADI Annual Meeting (Theme: Defence Cooperation for the Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN), and the 5<sup>th</sup> NADI Retreat (Theme: Enhancing ASEAN Centrality in ADMM-Plus) to be held on 2-6 March 2020 in Da Nang.

43. Thailand will host a NADI Workshop to be held on May 2020 in Krabi.

44. Viet Nam will host a NADI Workshop (Theme: Cooperation in Dealing with Human Trafficking and Illegal Migration) on 29 June to 2 July 2020 in Ho Chi Minh.

45. Malaysia (MiDAS) will host a NADI Workshop with a theme focusing on cybersecurity to be held on September 2020 in Kuala Lumpur.

46. Indonesia (CSS, TNI) will host a NADI Workshop on November 2020 in Malang.

### **Concluding Remarks**

47. The Co-Chairs extended their congratulations to the delegates for the comprehensive and insightful discussions during the workshop.

48. The delegates conveyed their appreciation for the hospitality of and excellent arrangements by the Philippines in chairing the NADI Workshop on “Strengthening Defence Diplomacy: Challenges and Prospects of ADMM.”

###