

2007 PROTOCOL TO THE CONCEPT PAPER FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ASEAN DEFENCE MINISTERS' MEETING

Adopted in Singapore on 14 November 2007

I. HISTORICAL ANTECEDENTS

1. The Bangkok Declaration of 08 August 1967 established the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) with the aim of accelerating the economic growth of the Member Countries as the foundation of continued peace and stability in the region. In 1971, the foreign ministers of the founding members of ASEAN signed the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality (ZOPFAN) which was primarily meant to guarantee the stability of the region. On 24 February 1976, the founding members signed the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC) enshrining the fundamental principles of mutual respect for each other's sovereignty, freedom from external interference, non-interference in the internal affairs of another member, pacific settlement of disputes, renunciation of threat or use of force, and effective cooperation in the relations between and among its members. Later amendments of the TAC led to its accession by other Southeast Asian countries and opened the same to accession by non-ASEAN members.
2. The fundamental principles of cooperation and good neighborliness enshrined in the TAC have since become the norm in the relations among the nations in Southeast Asia as well as in ASEAN's relations with its friends and Dialogue Partners. The ASEAN Concord I (Bali Concord I) envisaged cooperation among the member states in security matters in accordance with their mutual needs and interests. In 2003, ASEAN adopted the Declaration of ASEAN Concord II (Bali Concord II) seeking to establish a dynamic, cohesive, resilient and integrated ASEAN Community by 2020, which was later accelerated to 2015 by the ASEAN Leaders at the 12th ASEAN Summit in Cebu on January 13, 2007. Bali Concord II envisioned the establishment of an ASEAN Community with ASEAN Security Community, ASEAN Economic Community and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community as its three pillars.
3. The following year, the Vientiane Action Programme (VAP) 2004-2010 outlined, among others, the priority programs to realize the vision of an ASEAN Security Community. One of the action programs of the VAP is the establishment of an annual ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting (ADMM). The ADMM is to facilitate the interactions between the defense and military officials of ASEAN Member Countries and develop practical cooperation among them in the field of defense and security with the purpose of, among others, strengthening confidence-building measures through increased opportunities for exchanges and interactions.
4. The inaugural meeting of the ASEAN Defense Ministers, held on 09 May 2006 in Kuala Lumpur, responded to a long felt need and marked the formal inclusion of defense and military interactions within the framework of ASEAN. The Concept Paper adopted at the inaugural ADMM views the establishment of the ADMM as complementing other regional efforts that promote security dialogue and cooperation. The ADMM, as the highest ministerial defense and security consultative and cooperative mechanism within ASEAN, puts under its purview existing and future defense and military meetings among ASEAN Member Countries and between ASEAN, its friends and Dialogue Partners.

II. HIGHEST MINISTERIAL BODY FOR DEFENSE DIALOGUE AND COOPERATION WITHIN ASEAN

5. The ADMM elevates existing defense and military interactions to a higher plane – from confidence-building initiatives to tangible defense and security cooperation within the ASEAN framework. It is the main driver for defense dialogue and cooperation within the Southeast Asian region. It provides a process for developing cooperative mechanisms in the fields of defense and security that promote ASEAN's norms of dialogue and consensus-based decision making.
6. As an established process of defense and security dialogue and cooperation, the ADMM is structured within the ASEAN framework with clearly defined lines of consultation, coordination and reporting (Annex A - Draft ADMM Organizational Structure).
7. The ADMM shall be the apex of all defense-related meetings within the ASEAN framework. As such, existing and future ASEAN defense-related meetings and activities among the ASEAN Member Countries shall be under the purview of the ADMM.
8. Current military-to-military interactions outside the ASEAN framework such as the ASEAN Chiefs of Defense Force Informal Meetings (ACDFIM), ASEAN Chiefs of Army Multilateral Meeting (ACAMM), ASEAN Air Force Chiefs Conference (AAFCC), ASEAN Navy Interaction (ANI) and the ASEAN Military Intelligence Informal Meeting (AMIIM) shall convene annually under the guidance of the ADMM. The ACDFIM shall take place after all the meetings of the Service Chiefs. The ACDFIM shall take stock of all military-to-military cooperation within the ASEAN and report the same to the ADMM.
9. The ADMM shall be held prior to or back to back with the ASEAN Summit. As the need arises and upon consensus, the ADMM may hold an ADMM Retreat to discuss defense and security matters in a private and informal setting. Until the ADMM adopts its own rules for the conduct of its meetings and activities, the ADMM shall adhere, as far as practicable, to established ASEAN Protocol and Practices.
10. As all ASEAN defense and military dialogue and cooperation shall be under the purview of the ADMM, the ASEAN Senior Defense Officials' Meeting (ADSOM) shall prepare an ADMM Annual Indicative Calendar of Activities and recommend the same for adoption by the ADMM (Annex B - Draft ADMM Indicative Calendar for 2007).

III. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR DIALOGUE AND COOPERATION

11. The ADMM shall report directly to the ASEAN Summit. As an integral part of ASEAN, the ADMM shall work closely with the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting, and other ASEAN ministerial bodies and ASEAN sectoral organizations at the ministerial level.
12. The ADMM shall be supported by the ADSOM which is tasked to facilitate the work of the ADMM. The ADSOM shall be the main coordinating mechanism for the different defense and military interactions. It shall oversee the conduct of regular interactions, the ADSOM Working Group, and the Task Groups that may be organized to focus on specific matters. The ADSOM shall work closely with the ASEAN Senior Officials' Meeting (ASEAN SOM), other ASEAN Senior Official bodies, other ASEAN sectoral, subsidiary and ancillary bodies and the ASEAN Secretariat. The ADSOM Working Group shall be the working-level committee of the ADSOM.

13. Consistent with the goals and objectives of the ADMM as stated in the Concept Paper, the Declaration of ASEAN Concord II and the Vientiane Action Programme 2004-2010, the ADSOM shall prepare an ADMM Three-Year Work Programme and recommend the same for adoption by the ADMM (Annex C – Draft ADMM Three-Year Work Programme). This work programme, an evolving document, shall be adopted by the ASEAN Defense Ministers and can be subject to further review.
14. Recognizing that the ASEAN Security Community subscribes to the principle of comprehensive security, defense and security cooperation shall involve the ADMM and other ASEAN ministerial bodies and sectoral organizations. Accordingly, the ADMM may discuss practical cooperation in traditional and non-traditional security concerns; transnational and transboundary security challenges including maritime security; disaster relief and emergency response; and peacekeeping, post-conflict peace-building and humanitarian assistance, among other areas of cooperation. The ADSOM shall ensure that defense and security cooperation in these areas add value to achieving the fundamental objectives of ASEAN and complement the work of other ASEAN ministerial bodies and sectoral organizations.
15. Acknowledging the need to build bridges between the public sector and other sectors of society within and outside the ASEAN to facilitate a synergy of experience, expertise and resources available for the attainment of an ASEAN Security Community, the ADMM shall support the holding of Track Two activities, including the holding of academic conferences, workshops and seminars on defense and security issues and challenges.

IV. ENGAGING ASEAN FRIENDS AND DIALOGUE PARTNERS

16. The ADMM recognizes that the development of the ASEAN Security Community is open, flexible and outward-looking. The ADMM shall actively engage ASEAN friends and Dialogue Partners in dialogue and cooperation on defense and security matters, through an ADMM-Plus process, at a pace comfortable to all ASEAN Member Countries, while respecting the principles of consensus-based decision making, independence, sovereignty and non-interference in internal affairs.