

Agenda 5: Briefing on the Outcomes of 8th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (The Republic of the Union of Myanmar)

Suggested Intervention:

Thank you Mr. Chair.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to brief the outcomes of the Eighth ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (8th ADMM) to this meeting.

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has assumed the Chairmanship of the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) since 1st January 2014.

As the chair of the ADMM, Myanmar hosted the 8th ADMM on 20th May 2014 in Nay Pyi Taw, under the theme of “Defence Cooperation Towards Peaceful and Prosperous ASEAN Community”. The Meeting was chaired by Lieutenant General Wai Lwin, Union Minister for Defence of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and was attended by the ASEAN Defence Ministers and the Secretary-General of ASEAN.

At the outset, the Ministers expressed their condolences on the demise of H.E. LTG Douangchay Phichith, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of Lao People's Democratic Republic in a tragic plane accident on 17 May 2014.

At the meeting, the Ministers noted the Report of Recent Developments in ASEAN by the Secretary-General of ASEAN. The Ministers also took note of the outcomes of the ASEAN Defence Senior Officials' Meeting and ASEAN Defence Senior Official's

Meeting Plus, and the 11th ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Forces Informal Meeting. The Ministers had a frank and candid exchange of views on regional and international security and defence issues, and they also discussed ways and means to advance defence cooperation in ASEAN.

To this end, the ADMM Three-Year Work Programme (2014-2016), which serves as guidelines to chart the direction of defence cooperation under the ADMM framework was adopted. The Meeting also adopted Concept Paper on Establishing a Direct Communications Link, which will provide a permanent, rapid, reliable and confidential means by which any two ASEAN Defence Ministers may communicate with each other to arrive at mutual decisions in handling crisis or emergency situations, in particular related to maritime security.

In addition, the Meeting also adopted Additional Protocol to the Concept Papers for the Establishment of an ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting and the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus, which will refine and clarify the working mechanisms and procedures of the ADMM and ADMM-Plus in the future.

After the Meeting, the ASEAN Defence Ministers also signed the Joint Declaration of the ASEAN Defence Ministers on Defence Cooperation towards Peaceful and Prosperous ASEAN Community. The Joint Declaration reaffirms ASEAN's commitment to consolidate defence cooperation that contributes towards the realisation of the ASEAN Community 2015.

That's the end of my briefing.

Thank you all.