1. **Name:**

ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus (ADMM+)

1. **Short description:**

The ADMM+ is an extension of the highest ministerial defence and security consultative and cooperative mechanism in ASEAN. It aims to **something about broaden out.**

1. **Formality:**

Formal. Operates within the ASEAN Secretariat. Informality has been identified as a problem (see point 19).

1. **Regional coverage:**

Asia-Pacific

1. **Members (including states and non-states):**

ASEAN, Australia, China, India, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Russia, USA, India. Several non-Plus countries have expressed interest to join the ADMM-Plus, leading to ‘observership’ status due to a lack of willingness to expand membership without consolidating on ‘its initial succes’.

1. **Includes non-state actors?**

There are mechanisms for the inclusion of non-state actors, but this is highly regulated and their presence is not permitted at Senior Officials’ meetings, Senior Officials’ working group meetings, or policy meetings. Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) can be invited to exercises, workshops and seminars. The ADMM has a protocol paper that allows chairs of the Expert Working Groups to allow for participation for international organisations and non-governmental organisations. It also allows for cooperation with Civil Society Organisations through the Concept Paper on the ASEAN Defence

Establishments and CSOs Cooperation on Non‐Traditional Security.

1. **Date created:**

2010

1. **Date visibly started to engage with maritime security (e.g. first document that refers to it):**

2010 – the 2009 concept paper leading to the ADMM+ specifically mentioned maritime security, meaning it engaged with maritime security from its official conception in 2010. Maritime security also featured in the first Chairman’s Statement.

1. **Brief History and Description:**

The ASEAN Security Community (ASC) Plan of Action stipulated that ASEAN shall work towards the convening of an annual ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting. Against this background, the Inaugural meeting of the ADMM was held in Kuala Lumpur on 9 May 2006. The ADMM is the highest defence consultative and cooperative mechanism in ASEAN. The ADMM+ was established as a “robust, effective, open and inclusive component of the regional security architecture that would enable the ADMM to cooperate with the non‐ASEAN countries to build capacity and better prepare ASEAN to address the complex security challenges’. It does this through exchanging views, voluntary briefings, and discussions on areas of practical cooperation.

The proliferation of informal meeting requests on the side-lines of the ADMM led to an exploration of its implications and guidelines for external interaction. A 2010 concept paper found that ADMM+1 and ADMM+3 configurations were not suitable, as they could ‘lead to a proliferation of meetings with separate agendas’ or ‘only provide for engagement with a specific geographical region’. The ADMM+ was formed to remedy this proliferation. Its membership is defined in the Principles for Membership and Concept Paper on ADMM+: Configuration and Composition. Members are Dialogue Partners of ASEAN that have significant interactions and who can work with the ADMM to build capacity. Non-ASEAN countries submit proposals, requests, or concerns through a country coordinator.

1. **Maritime Security Issues Covered:**

IUU Fishing, trafficking, piracy, illegal migration, marine environment, traditional concerns

1. **Noteworthy documents and strategies:**

* ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Blueprint 2009-2015
* APSC Blueprint 2016-2025
* Concept Paper On The ADMM’s External Engagements
* Concept Paper on ADMM and ADMM-Plus Initiatives
* ASEAN defence ministers’ meeting-plus(ADMM-plus): modalities and procedures
* Concept Paper on the ADMM‐Plus
* Discussion Paper On Promoting Information-Sharing Between The Southeast Asia Maritime Law Enforcement Initiative (Seamlei) And The Asean Defence Ministers’ Meeting Plus (Admm-Plus)In The Area Of Maritime Security
* Post-Implementation Review On The Annualisation Of The Asean Defence Ministers’ Meeting-Plus

1. **Meeting Intensity:**

Originally there was one Ministerial meeting every 3 years, but this was annualized in 2017. There is now 1 meeting per year. There are informal meetings held with individual countries (see point 19). Other meetings taking place to facilitate this (including Expert Working Group meetings. Different constituent parts meeting regularly, and there are ad hoc workshops, seminars, field training exercises and tabletop exercises. Due to the proliferation of meetings (see point 19), a guideline has been implemented ‘to reduce costs in connection with EWG activities, each EWG may opt to hold no more than two (2) activities per year to include planning conferences for exercises and the like.’.

1. **Ongoing projects and activities:**

There are several ongoing projects related to maritime security. These are organised primarily under the ADMM+ Experts’ Working Group on Maritime Security. It includes Field Training Exercises, workshops, and seminars.

One current activity is exploring information-sharing between the Southeast Asia Maritime Law Enforcement Initiative (SEAMLI) and the ADMM+. It is noted that information-sharing is a key objective of the ADMM+ EWG on MS, and therefore this linkage could build MDA capacity and build stronger capability to respond to issues. Sharing information is currently undertaken within the ADMM+ through the establishment of the Security Community Information portal-Sharing Portal (AMSCIP).

1. **Funding structure:**

Funded by the ASEAN Secretariat, which is in turn funded by member countries and external countries and organizations

1. **Challenges:**

As it takes place within the ASEAN structure, an ongoing challenge is its perception as a talking shop, tied into broader regional limits to cooperation

**16.** **Cooperation or link with other arrangements:**

ADMM; SEALIM; EAMF

1. **Institutional contacts:**
2. **Noteworthy literature**:
3. **Knowledge gaps to follow up on:**

The proliferation of informal discussions seems problematic enough that the ADMM+ has established guidelines to control it. They note ‘since 2011, individual Plus countries have requested for separate informal meetings with the ADMM, which are usually held at the sidelines of the ADMM, the ADMM Retreat, or the ADMM‐Plus’. In response to the need for procedures and guidelines to be developed to deal with the request by the Plus countries for more exclusive interactions, the ADMM adopted the Guidelines to Respond to the Request for Informal Engagements or Meetings by the ADMM‐Plus Countries in 2015. It was stated that ‘while these meetings provide the Plus country with a useful platform to share in-depth their proposals for further collaboration with ASEAN, the meetings also take up significant AMS resources. In addition, too many of such meetings may also reduce the significance of the actual ADMM-Plus meeting, where all members are present to provide their voice’. In the 2017 Concept Paper on the Annualisation of the ADMM‐Plus, it was stated that the ADMM shall no longer consider requests for informal ADMM+1 meetings, but recognizes the value for ADMM+1 meetings, and thus retains the prerogative to call for special meetings with individual Plus countries if there are urgent and/or important issues to discuss. This is currently limited to 6 informal meetings per year depending on prerogative to convene a separate ADMM+ meeting, or two on the side-lines of pre-existing meetings.

There has been attempts to streamline the ADMM+ working groups. Activities of ADMM-Plus EWGs, which pertain to seminars, workshops, planning conferences, exercises, EWG meetings, among others, have increased with the establishment of additional EWGs and as EWGs undertake joint activities with other EWGs. A concept paper notes ‘It is imperative to streamline activities and mechanisms in view of limited resources on the part of the ADMM-Plus members. In the Joint Declaration of the 9th ADMM in 2015, the Ministers observed that various mechanisms are in place that tackle similar security issues. The “limited financial and human resources available” were acknowledged, and the 9th ADMM agreed to “endeavor towards streamlining and improving work processes of different security platforms for more economical and efficient outcomes.”’. This allowed for the dissolution of EWG when tasks have been fulfilled and the guideline that ‘ADMM-Plus EWGs shall endeavor to reduce the number of activities conducted per year.’.