

OPENING REMARKS BY CHAIRMAN

Respected Colleagues, ladies and gentlemen.

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh, and a very good morning, afternoon and evening to distinguished colleagues and delegation.

At the outset, please allow me to convey regards from His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Muizzaddin Waddaulah ibni Almarhum Sultan Haji Omar Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam to everyone present in this Meeting today, as well as His Majesty's best wishes for a meaningful Meeting.

It is indeed a great honour for Brunei Darussalam to host the 8th ADMM-Plus Meeting. As Chair, I am even more encouraged by your participation in our Meeting today, as a sign of support to our Chairmanship. While we had hoped to welcome all of you physically in Brunei Darussalam, I am nevertheless happy , to see familiar and new faces alike around the virtual room.

We are most appreciative of the long-standing support and commitment from our Plus members in this defence platform. Your presence today reflects the collective determination to continue the engagements despite the new modalities and challenges met with varying time zones.

Respected Colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

Last year, we had the opportunity to celebrate and commemorate the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the ADMM-Plus. We see this as a milestone for the ADMM in its engagements with eight of ASEAN's dialogue partners.

Despite the experiences we've had in the past year, we continue to reaffirm our commitment and ensure the shared vision for a stable and prosperous region be maintained.

With this in mind, Brunei Darussalam's theme for ASEAN, "We Care, We Prepare, We Prosper", emphasises the collective approach and seizing greater opportunities to working closely with our friends and partners.

As we advance into a new decade for the ADMM-Plus, as a platform to meet (even in virtual form) and exchange views to address common security challenges, my fervent hope that we may be able to continue the strong and positive momentum of our practical cooperation that we have built up through the seven Experts' Working Groups.

It is with this hope, I look forward to listening and have a constructive dialogue in today's meeting.

Thank you.