

**Summary for CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

**Presentation by Ms Lee YingHui, Senior Analyst, Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies**

Ms Lee YingHui highlighted that whole-of-government approaches are crucial for ASEAN to achieve sustainable security. To tackle underlying security issues, ASEAN must also strive for greater international cooperation in every sector, and continue established cooperation under its three pillars. In terms of political security, the region is experiencing increase major power rivalries, which threatens to divide ASEAN. To maintain unity, AMS must make conscious efforts to understand each others' core interests. In the economic realm, ASEAN as a bloc has huge economic potential and is predicted to become the world's fourth largest economy by 2030. However, growing trends towards protectionism in the US present risks for ASEAN. An open and inclusive international trading system is crucial for the region's sustained economic growth. In terms of socio-cultural security, the region is faced with growing fault lines among communities in the region, which have been intensifying through the spread of fake news via social media. At the same time, radicalisation continues to be a major threat. More social interactions across all sectors are crucial for improving mutual understanding and helping to forge a sense of community within ASEAN.

As such, Ms Lee recommended the following for the consideration of the ADMM:

(a) ASEAN must remain neutral in the face of pressures from external powers, on contentious issues such as the South China Sea. ASEAN should continue to work towards a Code of Conduct for peace and stability in the South China Sea.

(b) ASEAN centrality must be maintained to ensure it remains in the driver's seat in terms of regional agenda setting.

(c) ASEAN should support all economic initiatives which can bring about regional growth and development without choosing sides.