1. The 8th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM) and the 9th Meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP) to the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) were convened as a joint session on 27 November 2020, via virtual conferencing. The Meeting was opened and chaired by H.E. Ricardo B. Jalad, Undersecretary of the Department of National Defense, Administrator, Office of Civil Defense (OCD) Philippines, and Executive Director, National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), on behalf of H.E. Delfin N. Lorenzana, Chair of the AMMDM. The Meeting was attended by the ASEAN Ministers in charge of disaster management, the Secretary-General of ASEAN, representatives from all ASEAN Member States, the ASEAN Secretariat and the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre).

2. The Ministers commended the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) on the successful implementation of the AADMER Work Programme 2016-2020 as well as the Governing Board of the AHA Centre in providing guidance on the operationalization of the AHA Centre. Accomplishments in both the policy and operational fronts are essential in achieving the aspirations of the ASEAN Declaration on One ASEAN One Response, the ASEAN Vision 2025 on Disaster Management and fulfilling the objectives of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) Blueprint 2025.

3. The Ministers noted with satisfaction the achievements in 2020 across all Priority Programmes of the AADMER Work Programme 2016-2020 including notable achievements such as the conduct of the High Level Symposium on Disaster Management, the adoption of the ASEAN Declaration on the Strengthening of
Adaptation to Drought and its notation at the 37th ASEAN Summit, the endorsement and launch of the ASEAN Guidelines on Disaster Responsive Social Protection (DRSP) to Increase Resilience, the launch of the ASEAN Standardization and Certification for Experts in Disaster Management (ASCEND), and the publication of the second edition of the ASEAN Risk Monitor and Disaster Management Review (ARMOR).

4. The Ministers adopted the AADMER Work Programme 2021-2025 which sets the strategic direction and priorities for the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management to collaborate with the other ASEAN Sectors and partners for the next 5-year cycle. The Ministers also welcomed the development of an online Monitoring and Evaluation system to track its implementation and achievement of results.

5. The Ministers noted the balance and proposed reallocation of the distribution of the ADMER Fund, and concurred with the ACDM’s decision to review the Financial Rules of the ADMER Fund, including the establishment of a technical working group to undertake this task. The Ministers also noted the ACDM’s discussion on the Concept Paper to Enable the Peoples of ASEAN to Contribute during Natural Disasters endorsed by the ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting (AMM), and agreement to dovetail the review of the Financial Rules of the ADMER Fund in order to determine if an appropriate mechanism could be established for the public to contribute during natural disasters.

6. Cognizant of the importance of nurturing a mutually beneficial and collaborative relationship with ASEAN’s partners in the field of disaster management, the Ministers noted the Governments of Japan’s and the People’s Republic of China’s agreement to the establishment of the respective ACDM and AMMDM Plus mechanisms. The Ministers look forward to the inaugural ACDM and AMMDM Plus Japan, and the ACDM and AMMDM Plus China in 2021. In this regard, the Ministers welcome the initiative to develop joint Work Plans on disaster management with Japan and China, to support the implementation of the AADMER Work Programme 2021-2025.

7. In the same vein, the Ministers welcomed the development of the ASEAN-UN Joint Strategic Plan of Action on Disaster Management (JSPADM) IV 2021-2025 and look forward to its endorsement at the 38th ACDM Meeting in 2021. The Ministers also acknowledged the development of the ASEAN-OCHA Partnership Roadmap to strengthen partnership and promote interoperability between ASEAN and UN disaster response mechanisms.

8. The Ministers acknowledged the role of the ASEAN Disaster Management Sector in the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF) and its Implementation Plan, which was adopted at the 37th ASEAN Summit, with an aim to outline a comprehensive exit and recovery strategy for ASEAN from the COVID-19 crisis.

9. In the same spirit to promote a whole-of-ASEAN approach to disaster management, the Ministers recognized the importance of strengthening the Joint Task Force to Promote Synergy with Other Relevant ASEAN Bodies on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (JTF on HADR) mechanism. The Ministers
acknowledged the ongoing development of the ASEAN Mapping Exercise to Promote Synergy with Other Relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies on Disaster Management.

10. The Ministers also noted the development of the ASEAN Disaster Resilient Outlook (ADRO) which will serve as the flagship publication that will showcase ASEAN’s Global Leadership in disaster management by documenting ASEAN innovations and key policy discussions, notably the ASEAN Strategic Policy Dialogue on Disaster Management (SPDDM).

11. The Ministers noted the 13th Meeting of the Governing Board of the AHA Centre and congratulated the progress that have been made in the implementation of the AHA Centre Work Plan 2020. The Ministers also recognized the important role of the AHA Centre in operationalizing the ASEAN Declaration on One ASEAN One Response: ASEAN Responding to Disasters as One in the Region and Outside the Region, and commended the AHA Centre’s assistance to the Government of Viet Nam to support the communities affected by the floods caused by Tropical Storms LINFA and NANGKA, as well as to the Government of the Philippines to support the Government-led response to Super Typhoon GONI and Typhoon VAMCO. The Ministers also noted the Governing Board of AHA Centre’s support for the AHA Centre to mobilize Disaster Emergency Logistics System for ASEAN (DELSA) relief stockpile items to Cambodia, Malaysia and the Philippines to supplement the national response to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19. The Ministers noted the establishment of two DELSA satellite warehouses in the Philippines and Thailand thereby increasing the speed and scale of ASEAN response. The Ministers welcomed the construction and handover of the ASEAN Village (“Kampung ASEAN”) in Palu, Central Sulawesi of Indonesia, which stands also as a representation of ASEAN’s solidarity.

12. The Ministers expressed appreciation for the leadership of the Government of the Philippines as Chair of the ACDM, the Governing Board of the AHA Centre, the COP to AADMER and the AMMDM in 2020. The Ministers applauded the Government of the Philippines for the swift adaptation in the face of challenges, including convening high-level meetings via virtual conferencing. The Ministers looked forward to the 9th AMMDM and the 10th Meeting of the COP to AADMER under the chairmanship of Singapore in 2021.

***