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Department of Environment and Natural Resources

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MEMORANDUM

TO : **THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY**, Climate Change
and **DIRECTOR**, Biodiversity Management Bureau
In-Concurrent Capacity

THE DIRECTORS

Ecosystem Research Development Bureau

Environmental Management Bureau

Forest Management Bureau

Land Management Bureau

Mines and Geosciences Bureau

FROM : **THE UNDERSECRETARY**
Policy, Planning and International Affairs

SUBJECT : **PHILIPPINES-AUSTRALIA PLAN OF ACTION 2020-2022**


DATE : DEC 10 2020

This is to refer the letter dated 15 December 2020 from the Office of Asian and Pacific Affairs, Department of Foreign Affairs, requesting for inputs or concurrence on the revised draft of the Philippines-Australia Plan of Action 2020-2022 (POA) proposed by Australia.

The POA is being drafted in fulfillment of the bilateral commitment in the Joint Declaration on the Philippines-Australia Comprehensive of November 2015, specifically, paragraph 18 thereof, which called for an "Action Plan to drive cooperation and engagement and ensure that both the potential and prospects of this Comprehensive Partnership are fully realized and achieved."

In this regard, we would like to request for inputs on the draft **by 18 December 2020**. Kindly send an advance copy to oueiea.denr@gmail.com.

For your information and immediate action.


ATTY. JONAS R. LEONES

MEMO NO. 2020-673

Let's Go Green!!!

Request for Concurrence or Comments on Australian Counter-Draft of POA 2020-2021 2022

Div5 ASPAC <aspac.div5@dfa.gov.ph>

Tue, Dec 15, 2020 at 5:10 PM

To: Heidi Umadac <humadac.bihc@gmail.com>, HPSDT <officeofusecmcv@gmail.com>, Receiving OSEC <dohosecreceiving2019@gmail.com>, "Francisco T. Duque III" <ftduque@doh.gov.ph>, maria Lloren <marialloren2019@gmail.com>, Maria Soledad Antonio <msqantonio.bihc@gmail.com>, doc629ninetytwo@yahoo.com, Ron Bernal <rbernal.bihc@gmail.com>, Lenleigh Hope Luces <lhluces.bihc@gmail.com>, Allan Evangelista <aevangelista2.bihc@gmail.com>, opapp.osec@gmail.com, comms@peace.gov.ph, OASIA-DND <oasiamails@dnd.gov.ph>, OSEC DND <osec301@gmail.com>, DOJ goortha <goortha@doj.gov.ph>, mbalvor@gmail.com, nglozano@doj.gov.ph, DA IAD South Asia/Oceania <daiad.saoceania@gmail.com>, Feona Estanislao <festanislao@gmail.com>, "Victoria C. Quitiquit" <victoriaquitiquit@dti.gov.ph>, "Hazel Iris S. Baliatan" <hsbaliatan@neda.gov.ph>, &PIS-pfd3 <&PIS-pfd3@neda.gov.ph>, "Jon Martin V. Bustos" <jvbustos@neda.gov.ph>, "Joseph Christian S. Singson" <jssingson@neda.gov.ph>, "Monica Tricia L. Rivera" <mlrivera@neda.gov.ph>, "Ray Cristofer C. Gomez" <rcgomez@neda.gov.ph>, "Joseph Norley Y. Capistrano" <jycapistrano@neda.gov.ph>, osec@denr.gov.ph, OUEIEA Secretariat <oueiaa.denr@gmail.com>, Charlyn Justimbaste <charlyn.justimbaste@tesda.gov.ph>, Gemma Lorena Reyes <glareyes@tesda.gov.ph>, TESDA-ODDG Policies and Planning <oddgpp@tesda.gov.ph>, CHED IAS <ias@ched.gov.ph>, Frederick Orticio <frederick.orticio@deped.gov.ph>, ico@deped.gov.ph, International Cooperation Desk <icd@dotr.gov.ph>, Leah Buendia <leahbuendia@yahoo.com>, Zymar Bandola <zpbandola@gmail.com>, paolo samoza <samozapaolo@gmail.com>, loue mayores@dict.gov.ph, racuena.ccc@gmail.com, gregorio.honasan@dict.gov.ph, osec.ccc.ph@gmail.com, aura.lopez@dict.gov.ph, AMLC Secretariat <secretariat@amlc.gov.ph>
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Dear Sir/Ma'am,

Good day! I hope you are doing well.

Please see the attached letter and the counter-draft of Australia regarding the Plan of Action (POA) 2020-2021.

Kindly acknowledge receipt of this email.

Thank you and all the best,
Carla Palma**PACIFIC DIVISION**Division V
Office of Asian and Pacific Affairs**DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

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2 attachments **DIV5-LET-Various Agencies-Draft POA for final submission-jym-jsw-jfi.pdf**
112K **Plan of Action 111220_A FAS SED cleared (1).docx**
39K



**DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
KAGAWARAN NG UGNAYANG PANLABAS**

OFFICE OF ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS

LTR-_____-2020/DIV5

15 December 2020

Sirs/Madams:

Further to our letters dated 21 January, 3, 6 February, 7 July, and 28 August of this year on the ongoing negotiations on the draft *Philippines-Australia Plan of Action 2020-2022 (POA)*, the Department requests your concurrence or comments, as the case may be, the enclosed Australian counter-draft. May we invite your attention to Australia's proposed revisions to the Philippines' earlier counter-draft, as follows:"

The section in the Plan of Action	Revisions made
1.1.5.	Omission of Dialogue on Education and Training and Joint Working Group on Technical Vocational Education and Training
2.1.1.	Omission of resolution of Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs);
3	AU's development partnership with PH informed by COVID-19 "Partnerships for Recovery"
4.1.4.	Omission of the proposal to explore cooperation on automation
4.2.4./4.3	Proposed collaboration on research collaboration and higher education pared down to a general exploration of opportunities . General reference to science, technology, and innovation cooperation on Section 5.
4.3.4.	Omission of the reference to proposed MOU on Higher Education Cooperation and Research;
5.4	Revised to general cooperation on science and innovation.
6.1.	Conduct of PH-AU Maritime Dialogue starting in 2021
6.5.	New section on Cooperation in Aviation Security
7.1.9.	Exploration of additional defense exchanges under EDCA;
11.1.1.	Omission of commitment to sign an Executive Program on Culture 2021-2025 to implement the 1977 Cultural Agreement

To recall, the POA is being drafted in fulfillment of the bilateral commitment in the Joint Declaration on the Philippines-Australia Comprehensive of November 2015, specifically, paragraph 18 thereof, which called for an "Action Plan to drive cooperation and engagement and ensure that both the potential and prospects of this Comprehensive Partnership are fully realized and achieved."

The Department would appreciate receiving your response by **Monday, 21 December 2020**, an advance copy of which can be sent through our Pacific Division at email <aspac.div5@dfa.gov.ph>.

In view of the Philippines' and Australia's commitment to concluding negotiations on the POA by year-end, only comments received by said date will form the basis of the Philippines' reply to the Australian counter-draft.

We thank you for your usual cooperation.

Very truly yours,

For the Secretary of Foreign Affairs:

For: 

MEYNARDO LB. MONTEALEGRE
Assistant Secretary

Please see attached mailing list

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PHILIPPINES - AUSTRALIA PLAN OF ACTION

2020-2022

Seeking to enhance the Comprehensive Partnership between the Philippines and Australia with the mutual goal of elevating the bilateral relationship to a strategic level, and in preparation for the 75th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 2021, our Governments will implement the following Plan of Action covering the period 2020-2022:

1. BILATERAL COOPERATION

The Philippines and Australia commit to continued high-level bilateral engagement with a strategic focus and to strengthening cooperation across areas of shared interest.

The Philippines-Australia partnership is long-term, two-way, equal and founded on mutual respect and understanding. It is defined by open communication, agreement on shared priorities, and recognising and responding to each other's strengths. We will work together across a broad range of foreign policy, trade, economic and strategic issues, support effective regional institutions and promote agreed rules and norms.

This Plan of Action reflects the current dynamics of the Indo-Pacific region and a more mature bilateral relationship, articulated through the Joint Declaration on the Comprehensive Partnership signed in 2015.

1.1 High-level Engagement

The Philippines and Australia will promote high-level engagement across the breadth of bilateral cooperation to progress outcomes on agreed priorities and deepen strategic engagement.

The Philippines and Australia will prioritise face-to-face engagement, even as they agree that high-level engagement under this Plan of Action may need to take place using virtual formats, as travel restrictions due to COVID-19 may warrant.

1.1.1 Hold the biennial Philippines-Australia Ministerial Meeting

The biennial Philippines-Australia Ministerial Meeting (PAMM) serves as the review mechanism for this Plan of Action and as the decision-making body for determining

future priority areas for cooperation. It is co-chaired by Foreign Affairs and Trade Ministerial-level representatives.

Action line: 2021 Australia to host

1.1.2 Hold the biennial Philippines-Australia Strategic Dialogue

The Philippines-Australia Strategic Dialogue (PASD) provides an opportunity for senior officials from our respective Foreign and Defense departments to meet, discuss and collaborate on strategic issues affecting our respective countries and the region.

Action Line: 2020 Australia to host
2022 Philippines to host

1.1.3 Hold the annual bilateral Joint Defense Cooperation Committee

The annual Philippines-Australia Joint Defense Cooperation Committee (JDCC) serves as the mechanism to discuss defense cooperation, mutual strategic interests, and challenges in the region.

Action line: 2020 Australia to host
2021 Philippines to host
2022 Australia to host

1.1.4 Hold the annual Bilateral Consultations on Counter Terrorism

The Philippines-Australia Bilateral Consultations on Counter Terrorism (BCTC) is an annual mechanism that provides a strategic framework and undertakes planning for counter-terrorism cooperation between our two countries.

Action line: 2020 Australia to host
2021 Philippines to host
2022 Australia to host

1.1.5 Hold the following officials' level bilateral discussions as mutually agreed:

- Foreign Ministry Consultations

The Foreign Ministry Consultations (FMC) provide an opportunity for senior officials from the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs and the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and other agencies to discuss cooperation on areas of shared interest.

Action line: 2020 Australia to host
2021 Philippines to host
2022 Australia to host

- **Defense Cooperation Working Group**

The Defense Cooperation Working Group (DCWG) provides a forum for officials from the Philippines' Department of National Defense and Australia's Department of Defence, including service representatives, to formulate, coordinate, and monitor defense and military activities/action items, including under our Enhanced Defence Cooperation Program.

Action line: Timing to be agreed

- **Philippine-Australia Trade, Industry and Investment Dialogue**

The Philippine-Australia Trade, Industry and Investment Dialogue (PATIID) provides a forum for senior officials from the Philippine Department of Trade and Industry and the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to discuss measures to improve opportunities for trade and investment, resolve barriers to trade, industry policy and regulatory reform and explore areas for economic cooperation.

Action line: 2021 Australia to host

- **High-Level Consultations on Development Cooperation**

The Philippines-Australia High-Level Consultations on Development Cooperation are held to review the outcomes of our development partnership and discuss continuous alignment of priorities between the two countries.

Action line: Timing to be agreed

- **Philippines-Australia Agriculture Forum**

The Philippines-Australia Agriculture Forum provides a forum for senior officials from the Philippines' Department of Agriculture and Australia's Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment to discuss technical market access issues, common agricultural policy issues and to identify areas of collaboration.

Action line: Timing to be agreed

- **Philippines-Australia Plant Technical Working Group**

The Philippines-Australia Plant Technical Working Group (PTWG) reports to the Philippines-Australia Agriculture Forum and will discuss and advance priority plant market access issues and harmonisation of biosecurity systems for both countries. Both sides will continue to engage through the PTWG and to cooperate in fulfilling the action items discussed in the meetings.

Action line: 2021 Australia to host

- **Senior Officials Talks on Consular and Crisis Management**

The Senior Officials Talks on Consular and Crisis Management brings together officials from the Philippines' Department for Foreign Affairs and Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to discuss consular issues affecting both countries.

Action line: Timing to be agreed

- **Philippines-Australia Partnership Discussion on Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research**

The Philippines-Australia Partnership Discussion brings together officials from the Philippine Department of Science and Technology – Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST-PCAARRD) and Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) to discuss agriculture issues affecting both countries that could be addressed by science, innovation and research and identify areas of further collaboration and co-investment.

Action line: 2nd Semester 2020, Australia to host

1.2 Regional Cooperation

The Philippines and Australia are partners with a vital stake in the Indo-Pacific region, as it undergoes major change. We agree to build on our strong history of cooperation through the ASEAN-Australia Strategic Partnership and the broader ASEAN-led architecture, including the East Asia Summit (EAS) and the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF).

1.2.1 Both countries recognise the importance of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific, including its principles of openness, transparency, inclusivity, sovereignty and respect for international law. Both sides reaffirm their commitment to continue practical cooperation under the Outlook's four pillars and upholding ASEAN's central role in advancing regional peace, stability and prosperity in the region.

1.2.2 We will work closely to strengthen the EAS as the region's premier Leaders-led forum for dialogue and cooperation on strategic issues of common concern.

2. TRADE, INDUSTRY AND INVESTMENT

The Philippines and Australia agree on the benefits of a rules-based international trading system, which provides a foundation for a healthy and growing global economy.

Both countries are committed to deepening bilateral trade and investment linkages and creating the best possible conditions for business to flourish including through the removal of unnecessary tariff and non-tariff barriers and controls on inward investment.

2.1 Bilateral Trade and Investment

- 2.1.1 The Philippines and Australia will aim to increase total trade and work towards achieving enhanced market access. Both sides will review and monitor trade performance.
- 2.1.2 Both countries will enhance trade and business opportunities through participation in trade promotion activities such as business missions, business seminars or forums, exchange of trade-related information, conduct of market and industry researches, and enhancement of linkages with industry groups.
- 2.1.3 The Philippines and Australia will engage the Philippine Australia Business Council (PABC), the Australia Philippine Business Council (APBC), and the Australia-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce in charting future direction of bilateral trade and investment through business missions and info session exchanges.
- 2.1.4 The Philippines and Australia will complete technical processes for the entry of their priority products into each other's markets.
- 2.1.5 The Philippines and Australia will support, sustain, promote and enhance the flow and opportunity of investment in priority sectors such as applied sciences, mining, shipbuilding, infrastructure, clean energy, health, innovation, education, IT-BPM, agricultural technology, agribusiness, research and development, marine and aquaculture through officials' level consultations such as the PATIID.

2.2 Regional and Global Trade and Investment

- 2.2.1 The Philippines and Australia will work together to implement the Agreement Establishing the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area (AANZFTA) and ensure that the Agreement adds greater commercial value to business.
- 2.2.2 The Philippines and Australia will work together to ensure effective implementation of a modern, comprehensive, high-quality and mutually beneficial Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).
- 2.2.3 The Philippines and Australia will cooperate in economic fora including ASEAN- and APEC-centred groupings to ensure our mutual interests are reflected in decision-making.

- 2.2.4 The Philippines and Australia will cooperate in conducting feasibility studies on economic prospects of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), including trade and investment opportunities and linkages created by the BIMP-EAGA in halal foods, agricultural products, oil and mining.
- 2.2.5 The Philippines and Australia will seek to further liberalise bilateral air services arrangements to improve flexibility for airlines of both countries to operate on the routes between the Philippines and Australia to enhance trade and people-to-people relations.

3. DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

The Philippines-Australia development partnership aims to enhance the foundations for economic growth, build stronger institutions for transparent and accountable governance, and improve conditions for peace and stability. Australia's development partnership with the Philippines is informed by the *Partnerships for Recovery: Philippines COVID-19 Development Response Plan*.

With the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic, Australia will assist the Philippines to maximise the effectiveness of its own national resource mobilisation efforts and will prioritise areas where Australia can make the most difference. Development assistance will focus on addressing the health and economic impacts of the pandemic and will pivot existing health, education, humanitarian and social protection programs to support national responses to COVID-19.

3.1 Consultations on Development Cooperation

- 3.1.1 The Philippines and Australia will hold high-level consultations on development cooperation to review the outcomes of our development partnership and programs, and discuss alignment of priorities.

3.2 Enhancing Foundations for Sustained Economic Recovery

- 3.2.1 Australia will invest in enhancing the foundations for inclusive economic growth through targeted investments and promote a more inclusive environment for business and trade.
- 3.2.2 Australia will support policy reform areas that help the Philippine Government strengthen institutions and systems and enhance its capacity to sustain inclusive growth and stability.
- 3.2.3 Australia will support the Philippine Government on education reforms, such as the K-12 curriculum review and update, improvement of the learning environment, teacher upskilling and reskilling, and engagement of stakeholders for support and collaboration.

- 3.2.4 Australia will continue to support the improvement of education performance and equity, particularly in K-3 education in the BARMM and including the reinforcement of the Madrasah educational system.
- 3.2.5 The Philippines and Australia will hold technical discussions for possible health cooperation on matters including promoting and protecting health security (pandemics, disasters), universal health care implementation, non-communicable and communicable diseases, health regulations and health innovation, in line with the *Philippines COVID-19 Development Response Plan*.

3.3 Building Stronger Institutions for Transparent and Accountable Governance

- 3.3.1 Australia will support the Philippine Government as it fosters a culture of accountability and transparency.
- 3.3.2 Australia will provide support for Philippine Government implementation of priority infrastructure projects, and promotion of an increased private sector participation through better and more transparent procedures.
- 3.3.3 Australia and the Philippines will work together with the private sector, civil society and the academic community to strengthen institutions and contribute to inclusive economic and social development in the Philippines.
- 3.3.4 Australia will support enhancement of policies and establishment of mechanisms to reinforce national-regional and local governance linkages and cooperation.
- 3.3.5 Australia will support enhancement of the Philippines' response to child sexual abuse and exploitation, including by strengthening partnerships to combat incidences of Australians travelling to the Philippines to sexually abuse children or Australians sexually abusing and exploiting Filipino children online (including via livestreaming using local facilitators).
- 3.3.6 Australia will continue to provide assistance to accelerate human capital development by providing scholarships and short courses to the government sector, private sector and non-government organisations through the Australia Awards and Alumni Engagement Program-Philippines.

3.4 Improving Conditions for Peace and Stability

- 3.4.1 Australia will continue to provide support to the peace process in the Philippines, to promote prosperity, stability and security, through facilitating productive partnerships between the government, civil society, development partners and other non-government organisations.

- 3.4.2 Australia will provide support to the transition process in the Bangsamoro, helping the national, regional and local governments to work together to improve stability and security.
- 3.4.3 Australia will support the Government of the Philippines with the normalisation process in the BARMM, helping former combatants transition to civilian life and support the development of their communities.
- 3.4.4 Australia will support local-level work to reduce conflict in Mindanao, through assisting with mediation processes, early warning systems and community resilience.
- 3.4.5 Australia will continue to work with the BARMM government to support peace and stability by improving reach, equitable participation, quality and relevance of education in the BARMM.

4. EDUCATION AND SKILLS

The Philippines and Australia will explore mutually beneficial opportunities to expand their strong education partnership, strengthen linkages between institutions and encourage two-way exchange of mobility.

4.1 Technical Vocational Education and Training Cooperation

- 4.1.1 The Philippines and Australia will implement the bilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Cooperation in Technical Vocational Education and Training.
- 4.1.2 The Philippines and Australia will hold virtual policy dialogues on Technical Vocation Education and Training to identify priority areas of cooperation to inform the agenda of a Joint Working Group meeting when circumstances allow.
- 4.1.3 Australia and the Philippines will discuss ways Australia can support capacity building of the Philippines' Technical Vocational Education and Training system to engage with industry and benchmark occupational standards; skills development and assessment; and qualifications in priority industry sectors.

4.2 Higher Education and Research cooperation

- 4.2.1 The Philippines' Commission on Higher Education and Australia's Department of Education, Skills and Employment will explore opportunities to reduce barriers for mutually beneficial cooperation in higher education and research, both bilaterally and through multilateral fora such as APEC.

- 4.2.2 Australia and the Philippines will continue to reinforce support for Australia's New Colombo Plan and the Australia Awards as significant initiatives that serve as a platform for cooperation on human resources development.
- 4.2.3 The Philippines and Australia will explore opportunities to expand transnational education delivery of higher education and cooperation between higher education institutions, in areas of mutual interest.
- 4.2.4 The Philippines and Australia will explore opportunities for mutually beneficial higher education research collaboration.

4.3 Science and Innovation in Higher Education and Research

- 4.3.1 The Philippines and Australia will explore opportunities to support collaborative linkages between both countries' higher education institutions on higher education research.
- 4.3.2 The Philippines and Australia will continue to support research collaboration and capacity building initiatives in science, technology, and innovation in areas including but not limited to agriculture, aquatic, natural resources, health, biomedical devices, and nuclear science and technology through joint research and development, research training, scholarships, exchange of experts, exchange of technical documentation and information.
- 4.3.3 The Philippines and Australia will enhance exchange of experiences among students and researchers to promote possible future development of a joint research project in biodiversity.

4.4 Recognition of Qualifications

- 4.4.1 Under the agreement establishing the AANZFTA Economic Cooperation Work Program, Australia will continue to provide technical capacity building assistance, including for the Philippines, to support the implementation of the ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework (AQRF), noting that the AQRF initiative will in turn support implementation of the Philippines Qualifications Framework.
- 4.4.2 Australia will continue to cooperate and provide regional leadership on best practices and principles in overseas qualifications recognition, including encouraging the Philippines to sign on to the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Regional Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education (Tokyo Convention). The Tokyo Convention revises the *1983 Bangkok Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees in Higher Education in Asia and the Pacific*, of which Australia and the Philippines are party to.

5. SCIENCE AND INNOVATION

The Philippines and Australia will grow science, technology and innovation collaboration through multilateral and regional mechanisms. Opportunities for specific areas of collaboration will be identified by leveraging institutional and policy linkages.

5.1 Climate Science Partnership to bring Science to Practice

5.1.1 The Philippines and Australia will enhance their science partnerships to produce climate and hazard information to support local resilience action. The partnership will also develop platforms to make this information more accessible for local governments.

5.2 Smart Cities

5.2.1 The Philippines and Australia will support cooperation on best practices in urban development and green growth using innovation and technology through institutional linkages.

5.2.2 The Philippines and Australia will discuss capacity building for the Philippines in developing sustainable green transport infrastructure systems that will strengthen interconnectivity and inclusive growth, and address concerns on climate change.

5.3 Support to Industry 4.0

5.3.1 The Philippines and Australia will support industries to adapt to the changes brought by Industry 4.0 technologies-including managing the impacts of automation on the workforce by identifying vulnerable occupations and introducing upskilling arrangements and enhancing business-research collaboration.

5.3.2 The Philippines and Australia will collaborate on linking startups from both countries and increasing linkages of their startup ecosystems, including cooperation in the development of a conducive innovation environment.

5.4 Cooperation in Science and Innovation

5.4.1 The Philippines and Australia will enhance cooperation and support exchange of best practices on Science and Innovation including through the implementation of MOUs between the Department of Science and Technology and Australian universities and institutes.

5.5 Disaster Management

- 5.5.1 The Philippines and Australia will enhance cooperation and support exchange of best practices on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) and Emergency Communications.

6. MARITIME AND TRANSPORT COOPERATION

As maritime nations, the Philippines and Australia will pursue maritime cooperation at the bilateral and multilateral level to support greater economic integration and maritime security, and adherence to international law, particularly the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

6.1 Philippines-Australia Maritime Dialogue

- 6.1.1 Australia and the Philippines will hold annual Philippines-Australia Maritime Dialogues, starting in 2021.

6.2 Bilateral Agreements on Maritime Shipping

- 6.2.1 The Philippines and Australia will discuss the possibility of concluding a merchant shipping agreement.
- 6.2.2 The Philippines and Australia will review the Memorandum of Agreement on Recognition of Certificates under the terms of the 1978 Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) Convention.

6.3 Capacity Building in Maritime Transport and Shipbuilding Industry

- 6.3.1 The Philippines and Australia will discuss forms of maritime transport cooperation including on capacity building for merchant marines/ seafarers to be more globally competitive, developing expertise through a prospective Philippine Transportation Institute/ Academy, and assistance for the Philippines' Aids-to-Navigation (ATON) system development.
- 6.3.2 The Philippines and Australia will discuss possible technical assistance for the Philippines on the monitoring, review and evaluation of conditions of ships to improve operation and maintenance system requirements.

6.4 Civil Maritime Security Cooperation

- 6.4.1 The Philippines and Australia will consider developing a bilateral MOU on Cooperation on Civil Maritime Security.
- 6.4.2 As part of its development cooperation with the Philippines, Australia will design and implement a new civil maritime program in close consultation with relevant Philippine government agencies, academia and civil society.

6.4.3 The Philippines and Australia will continue to enhance civil maritime security cooperation through the exchange of technical expertise and advice in support of inter-agency maritime coordination, furthering information sharing and utilising activities such as Exercise PALAKAS, which aims to improve inter-agency cooperation and interoperability whilst building capabilities.

6.5 Cooperation to Improve Aviation Security

6.5.1 The Philippines and Australia will continue to cooperate in the conduct of airport assessments that ensure Philippine airports continue to meet international standards for aviation security.

6.5.2 Australia will continue to support the Philippines in the implementation of a risk-based regulatory approach to aviation security at Philippine airports nationwide.

6.5.3 Australia will continue to deliver capacity building programs that focus on strengthening the capability of the Philippines' transportation security regulator in the aspects of training, risk management, and governance.

7. DEFENSE

The Philippines and Australia share common interests for peace and security in our region and will encourage dialogue and cooperation on defense matters.

7.1 Defense Cooperation

7.1.1 The Philippines and Australia will continue to hold annual JDCC meetings to discuss defense cooperation, mutual strategic interests, and challenges in the region.

7.1.2 The Philippines and Australia will continue to hold the annual DCWG meetings to formulate, coordinate, and monitor defense and military activities/action items.

7.1.3 The Philippines and Australia will continue to work closely together in the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) process in support of an open, inclusive and prosperous Indo-Pacific region.

7.1.4 The Philippines and Australia will enhance their regional bilateral and multilateral military exercise program.

7.1.5 The Philippines and Australia will conclude and sign the Mutual Logistic Support Agreement in 2020.

7.1.6 The Philippines and Australia will look for opportunities to increase maritime security engagement, including exploring aircraft and ship visits to the

Philippines in 2021 onwards, and explore the possibility of a port visit by a Philippine vessel in 2021.

- 7.1.7 The Philippines and Australia will finalise the appropriate legal framework under which a Government to Government transaction may be undertaken for the Philippines' procurement of offshore patrol vessels and other assets for the Philippine Navy.
- 7.1.8 The Philippines and Australia will explore opportunities for increased Defence Industry engagement.
- 7.1.9 The Philippines and Australia will explore opportunities to increase subject matter expert exchanges under the Enhanced Defence Cooperation Program.

7.2 Defense Capacity Building

- 7.2.1 Australia, through the mutually agreed Enhanced Defense Cooperation Program, will provide education, training and specialist advice to assist the Department of National Defense and its bureaus, including the Armed Forces of the Philippines, in developing the capacity of both civilian and military personnel.

8. SECURITY AND COUNTER TERRORISM

The Philippines and Australia share common interests for peace and security in our region and will encourage cooperation on security and counter-terrorism matters, in the Philippines and the region.

Both countries will promote cooperation in key areas including counter terrorism, cyber security, maritime security and police cooperation.

8.1 Bilateral Cooperation

- 8.1.1 The Philippines and Australia will continue to hold annual Bilateral Consultations on Counter Terrorism.
- 8.1.2 The Philippines and Australia will expand bilateral and regional cooperation on countering terrorism and preventing and countering violent extremism. This will include engagement and collaborative programming on the ground targeting groups vulnerable to radicalisation by violent extremists.
- 8.1.3 The Philippines and Australia will conduct military cooperation in counter-terrorism, including reciprocal counter-terrorism exercises and information and intelligence sharing.

- 8.1.4 The Australian Federal Police will continue to collaborate with Philippine law enforcement to combat the threat of terrorism in the region. This includes continued support to the Philippine National Police Bomb Data Centre and supporting the continued enhancement of the Philippine National Police Mindanao Area Police Intelligence Office (MAPIO) to ensure it remains at the forefront of law enforcement intelligence management in the Philippines.
- 8.1.5 Through bilateral and multilateral cooperation, the Australian Federal Police will continue to collaborate with Philippine and Southeast Asian law enforcement agencies to counter terrorism. This includes the facilitation of domestic and regional dialogues, forums and working groups as required to strengthen efforts to countering terrorist threats to improve crime detection and disruption efforts.
- 8.1.6 The Philippines and Australia will conduct an Annual Joint Maritime Law Enforcement Exercise (MARLEX) between the Philippine Coast Guard and the Australian Maritime Border Command to ensure the effectiveness of maritime law enforcement cooperation and coordination within the common border patrol areas.

8.2 Capacity Building

- 8.2.1 Australia will provide implementation support to the Philippines' new counter-terrorism legislation, including training and capacity building activities involving the judiciary, prosecutors and police.
- 8.2.2 The Australian Federal Police will conduct capacity building programs to enhance the capability of Philippine law enforcement agencies. The Australian Federal Police will continue to support the Philippines Bomb Data Centre (PBDC) facilitating the biannual Improvised Explosives Device (IED) Trends Analysis Workshop. The Australian Federal Police will support the implementation of a dedicated counter terrorism investigative capability within the Philippine National Police.
- 8.2.3 Australia will assist the Philippines in the area of judicial reform and counter terrorism.
- 8.2.4 Australia will assist the Philippines to further develop capacity in the area of border security, including maritime security.
- 8.2.5 Australia will continue to work with the Philippines to prevent acts of unlawful interference against civilian aviation including through capacity building programs that strengthen the effectiveness of aviation security measures.
- 8.2.6 Australia will continue to support the Philippines to implement an Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR) capability

(UN Security Council Resolutions 2178, 2396 and 2482) through the United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme.

8.3 Cyber Affairs

8.3.1 The Philippines and Australia will continue and consolidate existing cooperation on cyber affairs, including bilateral and regional capacity building activities, and information sharing.

8.4 Women, Peace and Security

8.4.1 The Philippines and Australia to work together in strengthening the implementation of UN Security Council 1325 and other related resolutions on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) through regional and global fora.

9. LAW AND JUSTICE

The Philippines and Australia will strengthen legal cooperation on law and justice issues, including efforts to combat transnational crime.

9.1 Law Enforcement Cooperation

9.1.1 The Australian Federal Police and Philippine Law Enforcement Agencies will continue undertaking cooperative activities covering the following areas:

- Information and criminal intelligence sharing in all areas of law enforcement and coordinated operations across transnational crime types and priority criminal issues to the extent permitted within respected international obligations, domestic laws, regulations, policies and procedures
- Strengthening and consolidating existing cooperative networks
- Cooperative assistance in the field of capacity building and professional development.

9.1.2 The Philippine National Police and the Australian Federal Police will continue cooperation in line with the Memorandum of Understanding on Combating Transnational Crime and Developing Police Cooperation.

9.2 People Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons

9.2.1 Australia will work with the Philippines, including through the Bali Process Working Group on Trafficking in Persons, to strengthen its capacity to effectively combat transnational crime, particularly people smuggling and trafficking in persons.

9.3 Intercountry Adoption

9.3.1 Australia has an ongoing commitment to the Philippines-Australia intercountry adoption program and to working with the Philippines to ensure that the best interests of are met. The Philippines and Australia recognise our countries' mutual commitment to the standards and principles of The Hague Convention on intercountry adoption. Australia acknowledges the standing of the Philippines as a model of good practice for countries of origin under The Hague Convention.

9.4 Child Sexual Abuse

9.4.1 Australia will work collaboratively with the Philippines to combat child sexual abuse and exploitation in the Philippines and the region, as part of our development cooperation and law enforcement and financial intelligence collaboration, and through the Manila International Dialogue on Human Trafficking.

9.4.2 The Australian Federal Police will continue to build Philippine law enforcement capability and operate in close collaboration with Philippine and foreign law enforcement partners to detect, disrupt and prosecute perpetrators of child sexual exploitation and remove child victims from harm.

9.4.3 The Australian Federal Police will continue supporting the development and maturity of the Philippine Internet Crimes Against Children Centre (PICACC) as a collaborative model to combat online sexual exploitation of children in the Philippines.

9.5 Anti-money Laundering

9.5.1 AUSTRAC will continue to work collaboratively with the AMLC and its domestic partner agencies to strengthen the Philippines' anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism framework. This includes through ongoing AMLC-AUSTRAC Partnership Program as well as regional cooperation under the Financial Intelligence Consultative Group.

10. ENVIRONMENT

10.1 Environment

10.1.1 The Philippines and Australia will jointly pursue sustainable management of coral reefs. The two Governments will consider bilateral arrangements for the management of coral reefs and other important marine habitats, as part of the 75th Anniversary of bilateral relations between the Philippines and Australia.

- 10.1.2 The Philippines and Australia will work together, where appropriate, regarding the protection, rehabilitation, and sustainable use of forest resources, including matters related to illegal logging and associated trade.
- 10.1.3 The Philippines' Department of Science and Technology and Australia's Department of Industry, Innovation and Science will explore projects towards building regional capacity in earth and marine observations through the APEC PPSTI forum.
- 10.1.4 The Philippines and Australia will increase engagement in biodiversity conservation, including capacity building assistance to fight transnational crime.
- 10.1.5 The Philippines and Australia will collaborate on air and water quality improvement strategies, waste minimisation and actions promoting circular economy.
- 10.1.6 The Philippines and Australia will increase regulatory transparency in the field of food security and sanitary issues.

10.2 Climate Change

- 10.2.1 The Philippines and Australia will collaborate on activities towards climate change adaptation technologies for early warning systems and climate resilient infrastructure, among other focus area.
- 10.2.2 The Philippines and Australia will work together to build capacity on climate risk management and on accessing climate finance and investments.

11. CULTURAL COOPERATION

11.1 Bilateral Cooperation

- 11.1.1 The Philippines and Australia will continue to mark Philippines-Australia Friendship Day each year as set out in Presidential Proclamation 1282 series of 2016 to celebrate the longstanding friendship between our peoples.
- 11.1.2 The Philippines and Australia will commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations in 2021, to acknowledge the deep and broad partnership between our countries.
- 11.1.3 The Philippines and Australia shall exchange experiences on topics related to official standards and certifications on tourism.

11.2 People to People Links

- 11.2.1 The Philippines and Australia will work collaboratively to enhance greater awareness about the rich indigenous cultures of both countries, including by

marking the annual commemoration of NAIDOC Week in Australia and the National Indigenous Peoples' Month in the Philippines.

11.2.2 The Philippines and Australia will encourage and, within available resources, support artists' collaboration, art residences and school and university partnerships, emphasising the role of student ambassadors such as the New Colombo Plan scholars, and visits by athletes and sporting teams.

Endorsed on this day,

**For and on behalf of the
Government of the Republic of the
Philippines**

**For and on behalf of the
Government of Australia**

Secretary Teodoro L. Locsin Jr.

Secretary of Foreign Affairs

Senator the Hon. Marise Payne

Minister for Foreign Affairs and
Minister for Women