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MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Directors
Climate Change Service
Forest Management Bureau
Biodiversity Management Bureau
Environmental Management Bureau
Mines and Geosciences Bureau

FROM : The OIC Director
Policy and Planning Service

SUBJECT : **REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON THE UPDATED SCOPING PAPER
FOR THE UPGRADE NEGOTIATIONS OF THE ASEAN-CHINA FTA
(ACFTA)**

DATE : **04 APR 2022**

This pertains to the electronic mail dated 01 April 2022 from Dir. Angelo Salvador M. Benedictos of the Department of Trade and Industry - Bureau of International Trade Relations (DTI-BITR), requesting for comments/ inputs on the attached draft Scoping Paper for the Upgrade Negotiations of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-China Free Trade Area (ACFTA) which was updated with inputs from Indonesia and Thailand.

Following the signing of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement last November 2020, ASEAN Member States (AMS) began discussions on the Further Liberalization of the ACFTA. As a first step, AMS undertook intersessional discussions in relation to the possible modalities for the further liberalization of trade in goods, and on the possible cooperation between ASEAN and China. Based on these discussions, the ASEAN Secretariat prepared a draft Scoping Paper integrating the positions of AMS.

The Scoping Paper provides broad objectives, guiding principles, and modalities and procedures for the further liberalization negotiations. It incorporates other areas for negotiations aside from tariff reduction and elimination such as non-tariff measures (NTMs), customs procedures and trade facilitation (CPTF), standards and conformance (STRACAP), sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures, and economic and technical cooperation.

China requested for the inclusion of provisions on digital economy and green economy in the scoping paper. The ASEAN Secretariat has also put forward the scope of discussions for other areas of cooperation as agreed among the AMS, namely competition, consumer protection, and Micro, Small, and Medium

Enterprises (MSMEs). Recently, Indonesia and Thailand submitted their comments/ inputs on the draft scoping paper, for DENR and other agencies' review and consideration.

In view of the foregoing, we would like to refer the said request to your Office for inputs, most importantly on the provision on Green Economy. We would appreciate receiving an advance copy of your comments/ inputs **on or before 07 April 2022** through this email address: psddivision@gmail.com, copy furnished policy@denr.gov.ph, to facilitate consolidation and immediate submission to DTI-BITR.

For your appropriate action, please.



GLENN MARCELO C. NOBLE

[Draft Scoping Paper][Draft Joint Feasibility Study] to Expand Cooperation Areas under ~~Further~~ Enhance the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area

Comment [DROJ1]: ASEC: To capture other elements beyond cooperation (i.e. goods and investment liberalisation)

Comment [DROJ2]: ID: Indonesia propose to use terminology "Joint Feasibility Study" to be inline as mandated by ASEAN-China Leader on ACFTA Summit, 26 October 2021 and 20th AEM-MOFCOM Consultation on 13 September 2021.

A. Background

1. ASEAN and China are considering to upgrade the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area (ACFTA) to ensure that the ACFTA:

- (a) contributes to deepening and broadening ASEAN-China economic relations to make the Agreement more responsive to regional and global challenges;
- (b) remains relevant and meaningful to businesses in ASEAN and China notwithstanding developments in the emerging economic architecture in the East Asia/Asia-Pacific region;
- (c) incorporates provisions that facilitate the efficient cross-border movement of goods between ASEAN and China, including addressing the barrier effects of non-tariff measures; ensuring a resilient, open and connected supply chains of goods; and supporting a sustained economic recovery in facing contemporary challenges (e.g. COVID-19 pandemic);
- (d) strengthens economic cooperation between ASEAN and China under the ACFTA, particularly in the areas covered in the Agreement; and
- (e) explores new areas of cooperation to be mutually agreed by all Parties.

2. At the 19th AEM-MOFCOM Consultations on 27 August 2020, the Ministers endorsed the next steps for the remaining elements in the Future Work Programme (FWP) chapter of the Protocol to Amend the Framework Agreement, as proposed by the ACFTA JC, namely: i) to prioritise the conclusion and signing of RCEP and discuss the further liberalisation of trade in goods after the signing of RCEP; ii) on investment liberalisation and protection, for the Working Group on Investment (ACFTA WGI) to discuss the way forward to upgrade the ACFTA by taking into account existing agreements, including RCEP, and iii) to identify other areas which should be beneficial for both sides by the end of 2020.

3. Further liberalisation of trade in goods is one of the three unfinished key elements in Chapter 5 (Future Work Programme) of the Protocol to Amend the ASEAN-China Free Trade Agreement (ACFTA) (hereinafter referred to as "Future Work Programme") that was signed on 21 November 2015 and entered into force on 1 July 2016. Paragraph 1 of the Future Work Programme provides:

"Consistent with Article 17 of the TIG Agreement, the Parties shall enter into negotiations, to further liberalise trade in goods on a date to be mutually agreed upon by the Parties. The Parties shall undertake to finalise the negotiations within two (2) years from the date of commencement of the negotiations."

4. Article 17(2) of the ASEAN-China Trade in Goods Agreement (ACTIGA) provides:

"The Parties shall, taking into account their respective experience in the implementation of this Agreement, review the Sensitive Track in 2008 with a view to improving the market access condition of sensitive products, including the further possible reduction of the number of products in the Sensitive Track and the conditions governing the reciprocal tariff rate treatment of products placed by a Party in the Sensitive Track." Taking into account the review clause as

described in Article 17(2), further liberalisation of TIG under ACFTA could be a way to reduce the number of products under the Sensitive Track by moving them to the Normal Track for tariff elimination.

5. At the 20th AEM-MOFCOM Consultations held on 13 September 2021, it was agreed that for the two remaining elements in the FWP, namely the further liberalization of trade in goods and investment liberalization and protection, to proceed in parallel while both sides agree to conduct a joint feasibility study to identify other areas for possible inclusion in further enhancing the ACFTA in addition to the core areas of goods, services, and investment. In this regard, this paper highlights scope of areas to be considered in expanding cooperation areas under the ACFTA as well as further liberalisation of trade in goods and investment liberalisation and protection.

B. Guiding Principles

6. The Upgrade of the ACFTA will be guided by the following principles:

- (a) The Agreement will be consistent and compliant with the World Trade Organization (WTO) provisions, including Article XXIV of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994;
- (b) The upgrade of the ACFTA will be comprehensive in scope so as to remain relevant and commercially meaningful to businesses in the region;
- (c) The Upgrade Negotiations would take into account the concerns of all AMS and China and other on-going trade engagements of Parties; and
- (d) Provisions for technical assistance and capacity-building will be made available, especially to the least-developed AMS, to enable them to actively participate in the negotiations and subsequently avail of the opportunities arising from an upgraded ACFTA.

C. Scope and Coverage of the Upgrade Negotiations

7. The Upgrade Negotiations will cover tariff reduction, tariff elimination; non-tariff measures, including transparency; customs procedures and trade facilitation; standards, technical regulations, and conformity assessment procedures; sanitary and phytosanitary measures; supply chain connectivity; investment agreement; digital economy; green economy; economic and technical cooperation; and other areas of cooperation, where possible.

a. Further Liberalisation of Trade in Goods and Possible Upgrade on the Agreement on Trade in Goods of the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Co-operation between ASEAN and China

8. **Tariff Reduction and Elimination.** Given that the average tariff elimination level under the ACFTA is 90.9%, the second highest among the ASEAN+1 FTAs, the Upgrade Negotiations will aim at achieving a more meaningful and enhanced level of tariff liberalisation as agreed by the Parties.

9. Tariff negotiations and commitments will be:

- (a) conducted on a comprehensive basis with a view of enhancing the liberalisation levels of Parties either by, among others, reducing the tariff rates for certain lines under the Sensitive List (SL) and Highly Sensitive List (HSL), moving certain products from the Sensitive Track to Normal Track for further tariff elimination, where possible. Liberalisation of products under the ST can be based on the products or tariff lines that (i) have never seen tariff reduction since they already conformed to the threshold of SL and HSL from the beginning, or (ii) take into account, to the extent possible, existing commitments between ASEAN Member States and China.
- (b) recorded in transparent, user-friendly tariff schedules annexed to the Agreement, which should clearly specify the treatment accorded to each tariff line at each participant's national tariff line level for each year of implementation.

10. Parties should also put in place procedures to ensure that the schedules of tariff commitments are kept up-to-date to accurately reflect periodic amendments to the Harmonized System. The transposition of the Parties' schedules of tariff commitments to newer version of the Harmonized System shall be provided in English and not result in less favorable market access treatment for any product than the negotiations' outcomes.

11. Negotiation approach:

- (a) The tariff negotiations should be conducted in a transparent manner with all the Parties.
- (b) The modality for tariff reduction and elimination will be based on bilateral request-offer, taking into account individual AMS's trade balance with China.
- (c) Parties will negotiate bilaterally, if necessary, on the schedules of tariff commitments offered/requested.

12. **Non-Tariff Measures (NTMs).** The Upgrade Negotiations will agree on provisions that would ensure that NTMs are not used or developed to impede trade between ASEAN and China, consistent with their rights and obligations under the WTO, for the purposes of preserving supply chain connectivity between the Parties. Addressing the barrier effects of NTMs, either through reduction and/or elimination of the non-tariff barriers should be an option under further liberalisation.

13. The Upgrade Negotiations will also agree on provisions to review and identify non-tariff measures with a view to reducing and/or eliminating their trade distorting effects.

14. The outcomes of the Upgrade Negotiations will provide mechanisms for the Parties to discuss and settle NTMs during the implementation of the ACFTA in an effective, transparent, and timely manner.

15. **Customs Procedures and Trade Facilitation (CPTF).** The Upgrade Negotiations will build upon, and go beyond the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, whenever possible, so as to facilitate trade between the Parties, while ensuring effective customs controls. This might include developing a framework for enhanced cooperation among the customs authorities of the

Parties, including promoting interoperability among the National Single Windows or the possible exchange of electronic trade-related documents through the ASEAN Single Window.

16. **Standards, Technical Regulations, and Conformity Assessment Procedures (STRACAP).** The Upgrade Negotiations will reaffirm and build upon the WTO Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Agreement, as appropriate, including in five key elements of standards, technical regulations, conformity assessment procedures, cooperation, and technical consultations. The Upgrade Negotiations will also review Chapter 1 (Technical Barriers to Trade) of the Protocol to Incorporate TBT and SPS into the ACTIGA and seek to enhance transparency, strengthen cooperation, consultation, and information exchange with a view to facilitating trade and improving mutual understanding of Parties' standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures.

17. **Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures.** The Upgrade Negotiations will reaffirm and build upon the WTO SPS Agreement, as appropriate, to implement the SPS principles of equivalence, regionalisation, risk analysis, and transparency/notification and to look into other elements such as but not limited to audit, import checks, emergency measures, and technical consultation. The Upgrade Negotiations will also review Chapter 2 (SPS) of the Protocol to Incorporate TBT and SPS into ACTIGA and seek to enhance cooperation, including collaboration for capacity-building, strengthen consultations, and facilitate trade ^[TH] through science-based measures while not creating unnecessary ^[TH] barriers to trade burden for traders].

b. Upgrade on Agreement on Investment of the Framework: Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Co-operation between ASEAN and China

18. Investment Agreement. The Upgrade Negotiations will follow up on the Future Work Programme of the ACFTA, while taking into account developments in other ASEAN investment negotiations.

c. Other areas of cooperation

19. **Supply Chain Connectivity.** The Upgrade Negotiations may explore provisions that will strengthen the resilience and sustainability of regional supply chains, giving priority to the continued and smooth cross-border flow of essential goods and services. In this regard, the Upgrade Negotiations will draw from lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic to keep markets open and facilitate trade in the region.

20. **Digital Economy.** The Upgrade Negotiations may consider developing cooperation ^[TH] and facilitation in areas such as ^[SG] e-commerce, paperless trading, electronic payments, online ^[TH] personal data and consumer protection, financial technology, data sharing, electronic transferable records, artificial intelligence, ^[TH] innovation, cybersecurity and digital governance, and other areas mutually agreed by both sides.

^[VN] E-Commerce. The Upgrade Negotiations may consider developing cooperation in e-commerce including areas that are mutually agreed by both sides.

20.21. **Green Economy/ ^[ASEC] Environment.** The Upgrade Negotiations may consider strengthening collaboration on ^[TH] environment/ ^[TH] green economy, ^[TH] including through sharing of

- Comment [DROJ3]:** ID: Indonesia seeks clarification from China regarding urgency to include Data sharing and Digital Governance.
- Comment [DROJ4]:** From China's Non Paper
- Comment [PPU5]:** VN to revise Digital Economy into E-commerce.
- Comment [DROJ6]:** ID: Indonesia seeks clarification from China regarding urgency to include green finance, ecological conservation and environmental protection.

knowledge, best practices and technology] in areas such as green finance,^[PH] green skills development, sustainable and green infrastructure, low-carbon technologies, sustainable consumption and production (SCP), climate change, ecological conservation,^[TH] environmental industry, environmental protection, energy conservation^[PH] and efficiency^[ASEC], and capacity building on carbon emission trading (carbon markets), and other areas mutually agreed by both sides.

21.22. Competition and Consumer Protection. The Upgrade Negotiations may consider provisions on competition policy^[TH] and cooperation aimed at levelling the playing field, promoting competition in a fair and transparent manner and consumer protection^[PH] aimed to safeguard the rights and welfare of consumers, while respecting the sovereign rights of participating countries to develop, administer, and enforce their competition laws and policies

22.23. Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). The Upgrade Negotiations may consider provisions on MSMEs to recognize the significant contribution of MSMEs to economic growth and development, and to ensure that MSMEs are able to utilize and benefit from the opportunities accruing from the ACFTA. Provisions will address the specific interests, needs, and unique challenges that MSMEs face in doing business in foreign markets including the need to reduce barriers to support the necessary capacity of MSMEs in promoting competitiveness, development of innovation and value-added production, ensuring fair and competitive trade environment entry and to facilitate re-entry of MSMEs that may have closed as a result of the pandemic^[TH], and other areas of cooperation including MSMEs' network building, market access, e-commerce, adoption of technology and innovation, and exchange of information on policies and measures for supporting MSME development].

23.24. Investment Agreement. The Upgrade Negotiations will follow up on the Future Work Programme of the ACFTA, while taking into account developments in other ASEAN investment negotiations.

24.25. Economic and Technical Cooperation. The Upgrade Negotiations will include provisions to enhance regional capacity-building initiatives/programs on areas mutually agreed by all Parties including, but not limited to, e-commerce,^[ID] MSMEs, enhancing transparency and mechanism in addressing NTMs (e.g. the language-specific terminologies in addressing NTMs).

25.26. Other Areas for Cooperation. The Upgrade Negotiations may also cover other issues as agreed by the Parties.

D. Arrangements for the Upgrade Negotiations

26.27. Joint Committee (JC). The Upgrade Negotiations will commence at a time as agreed by all AMS and China, and be conducted as expeditiously as possible. The JC should determine, among others, the work programme and timeline for the review. Working groups will be established under the JC, as necessary, for conducting the upgrade of various elements of the ACFTA.

27.28. Frequency. Frequency and schedule of the meetings to be determined by the JC and the relevant working groups at the first meeting. Negotiations are recommended to commence in 2022 and completed within two (2) years.

Comment [DROJ7]: From China's Non Paper

Comment [DROJ8]: ASEC: To cover other potential areas of cooperation on carbon markets and carbon credits.

Comment [wc9]: TH: we would like to reserve our rights to further revise this element, as we are still awaiting comments and views, if any, from our relevant line agencies.

Comment [DROJ10]: SG: We note that ASEAN had previously communicated several other areas, including competition, consumer protection, and MSMEs (ref para 24 in ASEC's original circulation). Should ASEC be incorporating paragraphs on Digital Economy and Green Economy per China's non-paper, we suggest also including standalone paragraphs for these areas that ASEAN identified

Comment [DROJ11]: ID: Indonesia is flexible to separate para Competition and Consumer Protection (previously original para 24 in ASEC's proposal).

Comment [DROJ12]: ID: Indonesia propose to delete : to entry and to facilitate re-entry of MSMEs that may have closed as a result of the pandemic.

Indonesia propose new para " to support the necessary capacity of the MSMEs in promoting competitiveness, development of innovation and value added to production, ensuring fair and competitive trade environment".

Comment [DROJ13]: ID: Indonesia propose to add " MSMEs" after e-commerce.

Draft as of 18 March 2022

28.29. **Confidentiality.** Only the mutually agreed results of officially signed agreements which have undergone necessary domestic ratification by the two sides can be publicly announced. All documents provided during the negotiations and all components of negotiations will remain confidential.

Fw: [REQUEST] Request for Comments to the Scoping Paper for the Upgrade Negotiations of the ASEAN-China FTA (ACFTA)

1 message

od pps <odpps@yahoo.com>

Fri, Apr 1, 2022 at 9:58 AM

To: PSD Document <psddivision@gmail.com>

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Sent: Thursday, 31 March 2022, 02:23:01 pm SGT

Subject: Re: [REQUEST] Request for Comments to the Scoping Paper for the Upgrade Negotiations of the ASEAN-China FTA (ACFTA)

Dear Sirs/Mesdames,

We wish to thank the agencies who have submitted their views, comments and inputs to the draft scoping paper.

We are circulating, herewith, the updated draft scoping paper with comments and inputs from Indonesia and Thailand, for agencies' review and consideration.

Sincere apologies for the rush but we would greatly appreciate receiving any further comments and inputs to the draft scoping paper **by 8 April 2022**.

Thank you very much!

Sincerely,
Hanah

From: Hananiela M. Domingo

Sent: Monday, February 14, 2022 4:05 PM

To: mtduenas <mtduenas@bsp.gov.ph>; wsamaniego@bsp.gov.ph <wsamaniego@bsp.gov.ph>; Maria Donabelle M Cadag <cadagmm@bsp.gov.ph>; Francis M. Ramirez <RamirezFM@bsp.gov.ph>; ongjd@bsp.gov.ph <ongjd@bsp.gov.ph>; balboald@bsp.gov.ph <balboald@bsp.gov.ph>; REstioko@bsp.gov.ph <REstioko@bsp.gov.ph>; RomeroBM@bsp.gov.ph <RomeroBM@bsp.gov.ph>; RiojaVS@bsp.gov.ph <RiojaVS@bsp.gov.ph>; Marietta_zamoranos@yahoo.com <marietta_zamoranos@yahoo.com>; kyledanielle.ablat@customs.gov.ph <kyledanielle.ablat@customs.gov.ph>; Noemi B. Alcala <minoe@ymail.com>; Trisha Lorraine M. Aguasa <trishalorraine.aguasa@customs.gov.ph>; noelpadre@yahoo.com <noelpadre@yahoo.com>; Tisha Delarosa <tisha.delarosa@da.gov.ph>; Katrin.mares@da.gov.ph <katrin.mares@da.gov.ph>; ncabiles@dof.gov.ph <ncabiles@dof.gov.ph>; afang@dof.gov.ph <afang@dof.gov.ph>; raquino@dof.gov.ph <raquino@dof.gov.ph>; mbiscara@dof.gov.ph <mbiscara@dof.gov.ph>; Gabriel Mico Tiu <gtiu@dof.gov.ph>; ifg_ifpo@dof.gov.ph <ifg_ifpo@dof.gov.ph>; Angelica Sarmiento <asarmiento@dof.gov.ph>; tradenetsecretariat@dof.gov.ph <tradenetsecretariat@dof.gov.ph>; manny.caintic@dict.gov.ph <manny.caintic@dict.gov.ph>; josecarlos.reyes <josecarlos.reyes@dict.gov.ph>; Gina Rodriguez <gina.rodriguez@dict.gov.ph>; DICT Asean <asean@dict.gov.ph>; donna.estrelles@dict.gov.ph <donna.estrelles@dict.gov.ph>; lamberto.cruz@dict.gov.ph <lamberto.cruz@dict.gov.ph>; Gina Rodriguez <gina.rodriguez@dict.gov.ph>; DICT Asean <asean@dict.gov.ph>; aura.lopez@dict.gov.ph <aura.lopez@dict.gov.ph>; cert-ph@dict.gov.ph <cert-ph@dict.gov.ph>; goortha@doj.gov.ph <goortha@doj.gov.ph>; mlangeles@doj.gov.ph <mlangeles@doj.gov.ph>; relcuevas@doj.gov.ph <relcuevas@doj.gov.ph>; bcongoco@doj.gov.ph <bcongoco@doj.gov.ph>; DOJ acite-manito <acite-manito@doj.gov.ph>; lgrmendoza@doj.gov.ph <lgrmendoza@doj.gov.ph>; jgavellano@doj.gov.ph <jgavellano@doj.gov.ph>; DOJ mpaomalin <mpaomalin@doj.gov.ph>; rowena.guevara@eee.upd.edu.ph <rowena.guevara@eee.upd.edu.ph>; Dr Leah Buendia <leahbuendia@yahoo.com>; Marco Antonio Bautista <marbautista@dost.gov.ph>; zpbandola@dost.gov.ph <zpbandola@dost.gov.ph>; rasancho@dost.gov.ph <rasancho@dost.gov.ph>; Usec. Rafaelita M. Aldaba <RafaelitaAldaba@dti.gov.ph>; Angel Derrickvhel Quejada <AngelDerrickvhelQuejada@dti.gov.ph>; Asec. Mary Jean T. Pacheco <MaryJeanPacheco@dti.gov.ph>; ECO | E-Commerce Office <ecommerce@dti.gov.ph>; Wea C. Bohol <WeaBohol@dti.gov.ph>; Alonzo Luis P. Miranda <AlonzoLuisMiranda@dti.gov.ph>; Jonathan G. Cabaltera <JonathanCabaltera@dti.gov.ph>; Berlin V. Mabuna <BerlinMabuna@dti.gov.ph>; Monique G. Amante <MoniqueAmante@dti.gov.ph>; Dir. Christopher Lawrence S. Arnuco <ChristopherLawrenceArnuco@dti.gov.ph>; Bianca Pearl Sykimte <BiancaPearlSykimte@dti.gov.ph>; Maria Teresa S. Loring <MariaTeresaLoring@dti.gov.ph>; Louise Kaye G. Mendoza <LouiseKayeMendoza@dti.gov.ph>; Rudolph Jay Velasco <RudolphJayVelasco@dti.gov.ph>; Maria Jaena P. Go-Aco <MariaJaenaGoAco@dti.gov.ph>; Mary Fatima N. Barrameda <MaryFatimaBarrameda@dti.gov.ph>; M. Marcus N. Valdez II <MarcusValdezII@dti.gov.ph>; Cheryl G. Carbonell <CherylCarbonell@dti.gov.ph>; Beatrice Isabelle L. Hernandez <BeatriceIsabelleHernandez@dti.gov.ph>; Perpetua Werlina C. Reyes-Lim <PerpetuaWerlinaLim@dti.gov.ph>

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Subject: [REQUEST] Request for Comments to the Scoping Paper for the Upgrade Negotiations of the ASEAN-China FTA (ACFTA)

Sent on behalf of Director Angelo Salvador M. Benedictor, DTI-BITR

Dear Sirs/Mesdames:

This has reference to the draft Scoping Paper for the ACFTA Upgrade Negotiations prepared by the ASEAN Secretariat.

The 19th ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) - China's Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) Consultations held last August 2020 endorsed the next steps for the remaining elements in the Future Work Programme under the ACFTA Upgrading Protocol which include: i) to discuss further liberalization of trade in goods after the signing of RCEP; ii) for the Working Group on Investment (ACFTA WGI), to discuss the next steps for investment liberalization taking into account existing agreements including RCEP; and iii) to identify other areas of cooperation that are mutually beneficial.

With the signing of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Agreement last November 2020, ASEAN Member States (AMS) began discussions on the Further Liberalisation of the ACFTA. As a first step, AMS undertook intersessional discussions in relation to the possible modalities for the further liberalization of trade in goods, and on the

possible areas of cooperation between ASEAN and China. Based on these discussions, the ASEAN Secretariat prepared a draft Scoping Paper integrating the positions of AMS.

The Scoping Paper provides broad objectives, guiding principles, and modalities and procedures for the further liberalization negotiations. The Scoping Paper incorporates other areas for negotiations aside from tariff reduction and elimination such as on non-tariff measures (NTMs), customs procedures and trade facilitation (CPTF), standards and conformance (STRACAP), sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures, and economic and technical cooperation.

Recently, China requested to include digital economy and green economy in the scoping paper. The ASEAN Secretariat also put forward the scope of discussions for the other areas of cooperation as agreed among ASEAN Member States (AMS), namely competition, consumer protection, and MSMEs.

In this regard, we request for your agency's comments/views/inputs on the additional areas in the draft Scoping Paper that are under your purview. ([Annex A](#)). Recall that apart from paragraphs 19, 20, 21 and 22, the rest of the scoping paper has been agreed among AMS.

Area	Agency/ies
Digital Economy	BSP, BOC, DA, DOF, DICT, DOJ, DOST, DTI-CIG, DTI-Digital Philippines, DTI-CPAB, DTI-RGMS, DTI-BSMED, DTI-BTIPR, FDA, IPOPHL, PCC, PSA, NPC, NTC, NEDA, TC
Green Economy	BOI, DOF, DENR, NEDA
Competition and Consumer Protection	DTI-CPAB, PCC
MSMEs	DTI-BSMED, DTI-RGMS

We would greatly appreciate receiving your comments and/or inputs **by 21 February 2022**. For any further points for clarification, you may coordinate directly with Ms. Hanah Domingo through HananielaDomingo@dti.gov.ph.

Thank you for your usual support and cooperation.

Hananiela Domingo
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Department of Trade and Industry
375 Gil J. Puyat, Ave., Makati City 1200, PH
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