



MEMORANDUM

FOR : **The Directors**
Climate Change Service
Biodiversity Management Bureau
Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau
Environmental Management Bureau
Forest Management Bureau

FROM : **The OIC Director**
Policy and Planning Service

SUBJECT : **FRAMEWORK OF ACTIONS OF THE COALITION OF TRADE
MINISTERS ON CLIMATE**

DATE : **21 NOV 2023**

This has reference to the email dated 17 November 2023 from Department of Trade and Industry – Bureau of Trade and International Relations, regarding the outcomes of the Senior Officials’ Meeting of the Coalition of Trade Ministers on Climate held on 20 October 2023. Below are the highlights of the SOM meeting:

1. The Co-Leads of the Coalition (EU, Ecuador, New Zealand and Kenya) introduced the proposal for a Framework of Actions that would identify areas of concrete action while allowing for flexibility based on the different capacities and interests of the Coalition members. Several members, including Canada, the UK, Australia and the US proposed ideas for inclusion in the Framework. The Co-Leads requested Members to submit written inputs by 15 December 2023. The Philippines’ Statement is attached as **Annex B** together with the report from the Permanent Mission to the WTO. The statement underscored the following:
 - Voluntary **liberalization measures** on trade and investment in environment and environment-related goods and services;
 - Common principles in supporting use of sustainable goods and services;
 - Pursue mutual recognition arrangements under GSP schemes or preferential trade agreements;
 - Increased **focus on trade in climate adaptation-related goods and services** such as nature-based solutions, geospatial technology, climate-resilient agriculture technology, flood control, irrigation and water management; and
 - Support an action-oriented post-MC13 sustainability roadmap.

2. The Co-Leads reported on the **possible Coalition side event at the sidelines of the Conference of the Parties (COP28)** which will be held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates in December, either through a hybrid meeting or a face-to-face Coalition Co-Leads Ministers' event. The Co-Leads and the WTO Secretariat will explore potential areas of collaboration for this event; and
3. The Co-Leads presented the concept note for a Coalition Ministers' Meeting at the 2024 World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting to be held on 25 February 2024, which would also include a dialogue with the Alliance of CEO Climate Leaders and SME representatives.

Please be informed that during the meeting held last 10 October 2023, the Tariff Committee on World Trade Organization (WTO) Matters (TCWM) concurred on the establishment of the TCWM-Technical Working Group on Trade and Environment. The body also adopted the Terms of Reference (**Annex A**). The DTI will serve as the TWG Chair, while the DENR is the Vice Chair. Kindly note that aside from the Policy and Planning Service, the Forest Management Bureau, Environment Management Bureau and Biodiversity Management Bureau were included in the composition of the TWG.

In this regard, we would like to respectfully request your comments on the **Framework of Actions of the Coalition of Trade Ministers on Climate (Annex C)**, with preliminary inputs from the DTI- BITR. We would appreciate receiving your responses **on or before 28 November 2023** through our email address: psddivision@gmail.com.

For your information and appropriate action.


CHERYL LOISE T. LEAL

Kindly find attached a communication dated 16 November 2023 from DTI-BITR OIC-Director Marie Sherylyn D. Aquia regarding the outcomes of the Senior Officials' Meeting of the Coalition of Trade Ministers on Climate held on 20 October 2023 (ZWTO-339-2023 dated 27 October 2023).

We would appreciate receiving your inputs/comments on the Coalition's Framework of Actions (Annex 1) **by 01 December 2023**. The Bureau has provided its preliminary inputs in Annex A, for your consideration.

For queries and clarifications, you may coordinate with the TCWM Secretariat through email at RaissaFaminial@dti.gov.ph, ShairaSteffanyGranada@dti.gov.ph and KareenHopeEltagon@dti.gov.ph.

Thank you.

Best regards,

Kareen Hope A. ELTAGON (Ms)

Multilateral Relations Division
Bureau of International Trade Relations
Department of Trade and Industry
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4 attachments

-  **IN00306417_TWG_ZWTO-339-2023 Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) Trade Ministers Coalition on Climate, 20 October 2023_11172023.pdf**
204K
-  **Annex 1_Draft Framework of Actions_Coalition of Trade Ministers on Climate_bitr.docx**
25K
-  **ZWTO-339-2023_Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) Trade Ministers Coalition on Climate, 20 October 2023.pdf**
401K
-  **Distribution List_TCWM TWG on Trade and Environment (ao 13 Nov 2023).pdf**
43K

BMB Director <director@bmb.gov.ph>

Mon, Nov 20, 2023 at 1:42 PM

To: "Kareen Hope A. Eltagon" <KareenHopeEltagon@dti.gov.ph>

Cc: "tbmarcelo@bsp.gov.ph" <tbmarcelo@bsp.gov.ph>, "MacasaquitMR@bsp.gov.ph" <macasaquitmr@bsp.gov.ph>, "wsamaniego@bsp.gov.ph" <wsamaniego@bsp.gov.ph>, "BSP - Maria Donnabelle M. Cadag" <cadagmm@bsp.gov.ph>, "Angelito L. Banares" <BanaresAL@bsp.gov.ph>, "BSP - Christian Joseph G. Zosa" <CGZosa@bsp.gov.ph>, "ongjd@bsp.gov.ph" <ongjd@bsp.gov.ph>, "Renzcy Dianna M. Cervantes" <CervantesRM@bsp.gov.ph>

ANNEX A

Terms of Reference

Technical Working Group on Trade and Environment TRM-Technical Committee on WTO Matters Sub-Committee on Other Rules and Disciplines

Background

As the challenge of environmental degradation and climate change become more urgent and prominent, countries around the world are adopting policies and strategies to combat these issues and their impacts. Environmental topics relate to transcendental and inter-generational issues of great importance to the Philippines, which is among the most vulnerable to the global effects of climate change and environmental degradation.

Trade and environment issues are heavily discussed at the bilateral, regional and multilateral fora. A dedicated committee was established under the World Trade Organization (WTO) to facilitate dialogue between governments on the impact of trade policies on the environment, and of environment policies on trade. In the Doha Round, the WTO Members received a mandate to negotiate certain aspects of the link between trade and the environment, particularly the relationship between the WTO's agreements and those of other agencies, and market access for environmental goods and services. On another note, plurilateral discussions were launched in 2014 for an Environmental Goods Agreement (EGA) which seeks to reduce the costs and accelerate the adoption of green technologies through the reduction of tariffs on a wide range of imported products that can assist governments, companies and individuals to protect the environment. The development stemmed from the landmark agreement of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) where member economies agreed to reduce the applied tariffs on 54 environmental goods to five per cent or less by the end of 2015. However, it is worth noting that negotiations on the EGA have been stalled since its last negotiating round in December 2016 due to significant differences in the participating members' views.

At present, environment and sustainability objectives are mostly being pursued through targeted initiatives. Currently, there are three (3) initiatives on trade and sustainability at the WTO, namely: (1) Trade and Environmental Sustainability Structured Discussions (TESSD); (2) Dialogue on Plastics Pollution and Environmentally Sustainable Plastics Trade (DPP); and (3) Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform (FFSR). Of these initiatives, the Philippines has conveyed support and participated in the DPP discussions since 2021. Concurrently, the country is co-facilitating the workstream on "Promoting Trade to Tackle Plastic Pollution". Additionally, the Philippines officially joined the Coalition of Trade Ministers on Climate in January 2023. The Coalition is a high-level political dialogue aimed at ensuring that trade and trade policies contribute to the response to the climate crisis and sustainable development.

With the renewed attention on trade-related environmental issues and the country's commitment to deliver on key climate actions, there is a need to actively assess, discuss and identify policy priorities at the intersection of trade and environment. The proposed Technical Working Group (TWG) under the TRM-Technical Committee on WTO Matters (TRM-TCWM) - Subcommittee on Other Rules and Disciplines aims to institutionalize the technical deliberations in light of the rapidly developing issues on trade and sustainability.

Objectives

The TWG aims to monitor and discuss the emerging trade and sustainability issues and initiatives at the WTO, including as to how they relate to similar discussions in the other fora. The TWG will come up with coherent Philippine negotiating positions on relevant issues taking into consideration the country's national laws/regulations/policies vis-à-vis its environmental sustainability and climate change priorities. Any decisions, discussions and recommendations which may arise in the TWG meetings will be reported to the TCWM for endorsement and consideration; and subsequently to the Committee on Tariff and Related Matters (CTRM) and NEDA Board, as appropriate.

Membership

The TWG will be composed of the following agencies:

1. Department of Trade and Industry – Chair
 - Bureau of International Trade Relations – TWG Secretariat
 - Bureau of Philippine Standards
 - Board of Investments
2. Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Vice Chair
 - Policy and Planning Services
 - Environment Management Bureau
 - Biodiversity Management Bureau
 - Forest Management Bureau
3. Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
4. Department of Agriculture
 - Policy Research Service
 - Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
5. Department of Energy
6. Department of Finance
7. Department of Foreign Affairs
8. Department of Science and Technology
9. Department of Transportation
10. National Economic and Development Authority
 - Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Environment Staff
 - Trade, Services, and Industry Staff
11. Climate Change Commission
12. Tariff Commission

Other agencies/offices may be invited as resource persons, as necessary.

Functions and Responsibilities

The functions and responsibilities of the TWG include but are not limited to the following:

- Provide comments, inputs and recommendations on trade and environmental issues and topics for consideration for the development of the country's negotiating position;

as of 18 April 2023

- Part of the Philippine Delegation who will participate in the discussions and negotiations in the domestic and international fora;
- Convene meetings and consultations, as necessary, to update on developments and discuss pressing issues for decision, including new trends and issues emerging in the other fora (i.e., APEC, IPEF, ASEAN, Coalition of Trade Ministers on Climate); and
- TWG to provide technical inputs/comments on the negotiating drafts, position papers.

To: SFA
Fr: Geneva WTO
Dt: 27 October 2023
Re: **Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) Trade Ministers Coalition on Climate,
20 October 2023**
Rt: OUMAIER, OIER, UNIO
Cc: Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry
Secretary of the Department of Agriculture
Director General of the National Economic & Development Authority
Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Chair of the Technical Committee on WTO Matters (TCWM)
Cn: ZWTO-339-2023
Pgs: 3 including this page

Mission is pleased to report on the key discussion points from the special Senior Officials' Meeting of the Trade Ministers Coalition on Climate, which was held on 20 October 2023 at the Graduate Institute in Geneva. The agenda is attached as *Annex A*.

The following are the highlights of the meeting

Agenda item 3: Framework of Actions

The Co-Leads (EU, Ecuador, New Zealand and Kenya) introduced the proposal for a Framework of Actions that would identify areas of concrete action, while allowing for flexibilities for different capacities and interests of coalition members. New Zealand noted that the draft Framework would be "crowdsourced" from members and would allow interested members to pick and choose particular issues or actions where they would devote attention and resources, with a specific trade focus, and which would remain voluntary and non-binding. **The co-leads requested that members submit their written inputs by 15 December 2023.**

Canada introduced an idea to promote preferential market access to markets based on compliance with environmental commitments, such as tariff reductions, tariff rate quotas or non-reciprocal concessions. Canada highlighted the example of issuances of sovereign bonds linked to climate change mitigation (i.e. sovereign green bonds) and observed that similar incentives could be linked to Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) schemes.

The Philippines statement is attached as *Annex B*. The undersigned suggested the following in our country statement:

Voluntary liberalization measures on trade and investment in environment and environment-related goods and services;
Common principles in supporting use of sustainable goods and services;
Pursue mutual recognition arrangements under GSP schemes or preferential trade agreements;
Increased focus on trade in climate adaptation-related goods and services such as nature-based solutions, geospatial technology, climate-resilient agriculture technology, flood control, irrigation and water management; and
Support an action-oriented post-MC13 sustainability roadmap.



The UK supported work on harmonizing approaches to measuring and reducing embedded emissions in highly traded goods, better understanding of public investment in subsidies to support net zero objectives, cooperation with standard-setting bodies and expert organizations including on HS reform, domestic regulation, transparency and voluntary technology transfer. Singapore recommended that the Coalition could put forward a reference list of environmental goods and services.

Australia stressed the importance of working to ensure that the WTO's multilateral system remains relevant and responsive to global challenges like climate change. Australia cited the need to examine the harmful environmental impacts of agricultural subsidies, in developing cooperative and trade supportive approaches to carbon leakage, and promoting environmental goods and services. Korea supported work on transparency of trade-related environment measures and work in facilitating environmental goods and services.

The United States did not have any concrete proposals but agreed that the Framework should be voluntary and non-binding and cautioned against duplicating existing work or creating areas of potential disagreement among coalition members.

Presentation of roadmap, proposed next steps & purpose:

The Co-Leads briefed that they are exploring having either a hybrid Coalition meeting at the margins of COP28 or a Coalition Co-Leads Ministers' event. The Co-Leads informed that they would explore with the WTO Secretariat potential areas of collaboration at the WTO Secretariat-organized events or the joint trade pavilion being managed by WTO, UNCTAD and ITC.

The Co-Leads also noted the concept note for a Coalition Ministers' meeting at the World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting on 25 February 2024, and which would also include a dialogue with the Alliance of CEO Climate Leaders and SME representatives.

Comments and Recommendations

Mission will coordinate with the Co-Leads and the WTO Secretariat on updates related to potential activities at COP28 in Dubai, UAE and will update the Department and TCWM when there is clarity on any proposed activities.

Given the creation of the TCWM Technical Working Group on Trade and Environment, Mission would recommend its activation in November to discuss Philippine inputs for the draft Framework as well as preparations for MC13.

For the Department's and TCWM's consideration.



MANUEL A.J. TEEHANKEE
Ambassador and Permanent Representative



Senior Officials Meeting

20 October 2023, 12.00 – 14.00,

Hybrid Updated Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Debrief from Coalition co-leads – Ecuador, European Union, Kenya and New Zealand
 - Welcome new Coalition members
3. Coalition priorities and actions: MC13 and beyond
 - What concrete actions can Ministers take to demonstrate commitment to enhanced cooperation in ways that reflect the Coalition's principles and priorities?
 - Discussion of the draft framework for actions document, with examples from co-leads.
4. Presentation of roadmap, proposed next steps & purpose:
 - Update on the Coalition's engagement in COP28
 - Joint trade, finance and climate Ministers meeting in Davos, see draft concept note.
 - Second Ministerial meeting of the Coalition in the margins of 13th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC13).
5. Any other business

SOM of Coalition of Trade Ministers on Climate
20 October 2023, 12h00 to 14h00
Geneva Graduate Institute (Petal 4, Level 5, P4-Conference Room)

Agenda 3 – Coalition priorities and actions: MC13 and beyond

- What concrete actions can Ministers take to demonstrate commitment to enhanced cooperation in ways that reflect the Coalition's principles and priorities?
- Discussion of the draft framework for actions document, with examples from co-leads.

Philippine Intervention

Word Count: 395

- On behalf of the Secretary of Trade and Industry, Secretary Alfredo Pascual, I am pleased to be here with our Department of Agriculture- Undersecretary for Fisheries Drusila Esther Bayate.
- The Philippines would like to thank the Co-Leads for organizing the SOM and for presenting the draft Framework, and we welcome the new members of the Coalition that brings the number to thirty-one (31). We joined the Coalition because of its potential to catalyze trade action that addresses climate change. At this nascent stage, a key question is to level off expectations of what we want this Coalition to deliver? From our perspective, the Coalition can be a progressive voice and fulcrum for positive trade action in the WTO and should build partnerships with related organizations. The Philippines supports a Framework of Actions that is voluntary, non-binding and provides indicative

areas of best practice for potential cooperation in trade, and environmental sustainability in general.

- On priority 3, the Philippines would reiterate our proposal for members to consider voluntary liberalization measures on trade and investment, by cross-pollinating the experience of APEC and other processes on environment and environment-related goods and services. The Philippines has done its part on this front, for example, by allowing 100% foreign equity in renewable energy investments, and would look for Coalition Members to show a high level of ambition. We would also support defining common principles for public sector support use of sustainable goods and services, as well as sustainable agriculture trade and utilizing the Coalition's convening power to engage with the private sector.
- And to integrate more developing economies in global value chains and address increasing barriers to trade, developed Members should be encouraged to pursue mutual recognition arrangements on environmental goods with developing countries with existing FTAs or GSP schemes. A first step could be to organize a Coalition event that brings together experts on conformity assessment.
- On priority 4, we would also suggest broader engagement with climate vulnerable economies, including with the **Climate Vulnerable Forum and Global Center on Adaptation**, on adaptation-related goods and services, including on nature-based solutions, geospatial technology, climate-resilient agriculture technology, as well as flood control, irrigation, and water management.
- And in broader terms, we would call on Coalition Members to support a more ambitious and action-oriented post-MC13 Sustainability Roadmap and support

Day -2

As delivered

discussions on Day 2 of the SOM on Trade and Environmental Sustainability.

Thank you.

Agenda 4 – Presentation of roadmap, proposed next steps & purpose:

- Update on the Coalition’s engagement in COP28
- Joint trade, finance and climate Ministers meeting in Davos, see draft concept note; and
- Second Ministerial meeting of the Coalition in the margins of 13th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC13).

Philippine Intervention

Word Count: 68

- We support maximizing outreach opportunities and personal engagement of our Trade Ministers, and are supportive of efforts to continuing engaging at the WEF Annual Meeting in 2024. We look forward to the early issuance of invitations to ensure our effective participation and would be supportive of a joint activity with IRENA at the sidelines of MC13 in Abu Dhabi.

Background

- **Desired Outcome:** Agreement on Coalition Roadmap, including meetings and outreach activities; Inclusion of “positive” trade agenda in Coalition Framework of Actions
- **Background/Issues:** The Coalition, as a new initiative, is still finding its footing in defining its agenda including level of ambition; as well as potential areas of cooperation under the Coalition Framework of Actions
- At the sidelines of the 12th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC 12), the Trade Ministers of Ecuador, European Union, Kenya and New Zealand organized an informal Ministerial Meeting of 22 delegations representing a cross-section of WTO members including the Philippines United States, Canada, Japan, Fiji, Nigeria, Colombia, Singapore and Vietnam to exchange views on how to strengthen the environmental sustainability agenda in the WTO. The participating delegations agreed in principle to create a Coalition of Trade Ministers on Climate (or “Coalition”). During the meeting, the Philippines expressed interest to promote environmental goods and services, and under the goods pillar, recommended the inclusion of intermediate products that are used to produce green goods, applications for disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation, as well as new technologies like green hydrogen and energy storage. On services, the Philippines recommended expanding the definition of environmental services, reduce non-tariff barriers, and individually provide supportive regulatory regimes. And lastly, DTI Undersecretary Rodolfo emphasized the importance of support from the developed world, by developing partnerships focused on financing and technology transfer.
- The Coalition was launched on 19 January 2022 at the margins of the World Economic Forum (WEF), with the participation of DTI Secretary Alfredo Pascual. During the Coalition lunch, Secretary Pascual called for the Coalition to build on efforts such as in APEC to support voluntary liberalization efforts, including intermediate products, as well as technologies for climate adaptation and mitigation (i.e. renewable energy and green hydrogen). He also called for a focus on climate vulnerable economies and collaborative work in developing voluntary carbon pricing instruments and offset mechanisms.
- Ministers have committed to work on the following priority areas:

1. Foster international cooperation and collective action to promote trade and trade policies that pursue climate action across the WTO and relevant multilateral, plurilateral, regional and sectoral initiatives.
 2. Identify ways to ensure the multilateral trading system contributes to the global response to climate change and promotes a positive contribution to the climate agenda, including through focused attention across sectors on the nexus between climate and trade.
 3. Promote trade and investment that foster the diffusion, development, accessibility and uptake of goods, services and technologies that support climate mitigation and adaptation in both developed and developing countries.
 4. Identify trade-related strategies supportive of the most vulnerable developing and least developed countries.
 5. Build alliances and partnerships with climate and finance communities and relevant stakeholders to foster climate action, transitions, and climate-resilient development on the ground.
- Coalition Members (as of 10 October 2023): 56 Members (Angola, Australia, Barbados, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, European Union, Gambia, Iceland, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Maldives, Mozambique, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Rwanda, St. Vincent and Grenadines, Singapore, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Zambia)

DRAFT FRAMEWORK OF COLLECTIVE ACTIONS / CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE COALITION TO CLIMATE ACTION

29 September 2023, Draft for discussion

PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES	COOPERATION in our contribution to the global response to climate change, including by engaging nationally and internationally with fellow ministers working on climate, environment, finance, and development, among others.	INCLUSIVITY in the engagement of Ministers and relevant stakeholders from different regions and at different levels of development and climate vulnerabilities.	LEADERSHIP in providing high-level political direction and guidance to bolster inclusive cooperation on the nexus of climate, trade, and sustainable development.	TRANSPARENCY for effective climate action built on trust and international cooperation.
1. Foster international cooperation and collective action to promote trade and trade policies that pursue climate action across the WTO and relevant multilateral, plurilateral, regional and sectoral initiatives.	1) Participate in the UNFCCC COP and foster partnerships on trade and trade policies that pursue climate action (<i>indicative example</i>) PH Comments 1. The DTI-BITR suggests that the Coalition convene a dialogue in partnership with international organizations (i.e., WTO, UNCTAD, ITC, UNFCCC, UNSG) to discuss the nexus of climate, trade and sustainable development. In addition, the Coalition could also collaborate with APEC, ASEAN, and other related fora in organizing capacity building in this area.			
2. Identify ways to ensure the multilateral trading system contributes to the global response to climate change and promotes a positive contribution to the climate agenda, including through focused attention across sectors on the nexus between climate and trade.	1) Commit to use WTO bodies as well as the trade policy review mechanism to ensure attention to trade policies and issues relevant to climate (<i>indicative example</i>) PH Comments 1. The DTI-BITR suggests that the Coalition support an action-oriented post-MC13 sustainable roadmap on trade and sustainability.			
3. Promote trade and investment that foster the diffusion, development, accessibility and uptake of goods, services and technologies that support climate mitigation and	1) Develop a partnership with IRENA to support affordable clean energy access and energy transition through trade (<i>indicative example</i>) PH Comments 1. The DTI-BITR proposes that the Coalition initiate discussions on voluntary liberalization measures on trade and investment in environment and environment-related goods and services at the Coalition. The Coalition could collaborate with APEC, for example on experience sharing and lessons learned from the APEC discussions.			

ANNEX C

<p>adaptation in both developed and developing countries.</p>	<p>2. We support the Geneva WTO-PM's suggestion that the Coalition discuss and develop common principles in supporting the use of sustainable goods and services.</p>
<p>4. Identify trade-related strategies supportive of the most vulnerable developing and least developed countries.</p>	<p>1) Commit to support climate-resilient development priorities of small vulnerable economies and LDCs, including those addressed in their national adaptation strategies, such as through Aid for Trade (<i>indicative example</i>)</p> <p>PH Comments</p> <p>1. The DTI-BITR supports the suggestion to utilize the Aid for Trade mechanism at the WTO and support technical assistance and capacity building on trade-related strategies to support LDCs and SIDS that are vulnerable to climate change.</p>
<p>5. Build alliances and partnerships with climate and finance communities and relevant stakeholders to foster climate action, transitions, and climate-resilient development on the ground.</p>	<p>1) Establish a high-level dialogue with international organizations (i.e., WTO, UNCTAD, ITC, UNFCCC, UNSG) on the nexus of climate, trade, and sustainable development (<i>indicative example</i>)</p> <p>PH Comments</p> <p>1. The DTI-BITR would also suggest that the Coalition partner with the Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action and other related alliances to conduct a dialogue on the intersection of trade, finance and climate change.</p>