



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
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MEMORANDUM

FOR : **The Directors**
Biodiversity Management Bureau
Forest Management Bureau
Climate Change Service
Environmental Law Enforcement and Protection Service

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

SUBJECT : **FOLLOW THROUGH INSTRUCTIONS FROM PH-EFTA FTA
INAUGURAL MEETING IN JANUARY 2023**

DATE : **16 JAN 2023**

This has reference to the e-mail dated 13 January 2022 from the Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Environment Staff (ANRES) – National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), regarding the issues raised by EFTA on the area of environment during the 1st Meetings of the Joint Committee and Sub-Committee of the Philippines-European Free Trade Association (PH-EFTA) Free Trade Agreement (FTA) held last 9-10 January 2023 in Geneva, Switzerland.

Relative thereto, we would like to request for the Bureau's inputs on the following questions/clarification raised by EFTA member:

1. **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) target.** The EFTA requested updates on the prospects for a more ambitious NDC target, entailing a possible increase in the unconditional commitments which is currently set at 2.71 percent (72.29% conditional).
2. **Interventions beyond policy reforms to ensure continuous promotion of sustainable management of forests.** The Philippines shared the initiatives of the government (i.e., EO No. 318 s. 2004, and various DENR AOs) in advancing tenure reforms to promote Sustainable Management of Forests. However, the EFTA would like to know any plans of the government beyond the mentioned policy reforms.
3. Updates and timelines on the (i) **formulation of a National Implementation Plan for the NDC**; and (ii) **passage of the Environmental Protection and Enforcement Bureau Bill.**

We would appreciate receiving an advance copy of your response through our email address: psddivision@gmail.com **on or before 18 January 2023**, so we can facilitate the Department's submission to NEDA before the deadline.

For your preferential and appropriate action, please.


MELINDA C. CAPISTRANO

Follow through Instructions from PH-EFTA FTA Inaugural Meeting in January 2023

1 message

&ANRES-rissd <&ANRES-rissd@neda.gov.ph>

Fri, Jan 13, 2023 at 3:57 PM

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To : **Atty. Jonas R. Leones**
Undersecretary, Policy, Planning and International Affairs
Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)

Melinda Capistrano
OIC-Director, Policy, and Planning Service (PPS), DENR

Dear Undersecretary Leones,

The Inaugural Meetings of the Joint Committee and Sub-Committee of the Philippines-European Free Trade Association (PH-EFTA) Free Trade Agreement (FTA) was conducted on January 9-10, 2023 in Geneva, Switzerland. The Philippine delegation was composed of representatives from various Philippine government agencies, including NEDA as Chair of the Trade and Sustainable Development (TSD) Chapter.

During the discussion on the questions raised by the EFTA Secretariat in relation to the TSD Chapter, the EFTA members put forth the following environment and natural resources concerns for clarification:

- **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) target.** The EFTA requested updates on the prospects for a more ambitious NDC target, entailing a possible increase in the unconditional commitments which is currently set at 2.71 percent (72.29% conditional).
- **Interventions beyond policy reforms to ensure continuous promotion of sustainable management of forests.** The Philippines shared the initiatives of the government (i.e., EO No. 318 s. 2004, and various DENR AOs) in advancing tenure reforms to promote Sustainable Management of Forests. However, the EFTA would like to know any plans of the government beyond the mentioned policy reforms.
- **Updates and timelines** on the (i) formulation of a National Implementation Plan for the NDC; and (ii) passage of the Environmental Protection and Enforcement Bureau Bill.

In view of this, may we request for your comments and recommendations to substantiate the discussions on the above concerns. We would appreciate receiving your inputs on or before **20 January 2023**, for consolidation and onward submission to DTI-Bureau of International Trade Relations.

For queries and clarifications, you may contact Mr. Alvin Olanday or Mr. Rodolfo De Gracia, Jr. of the ANRES-Rural Institutions and Support Services Division through email &ANRES-rissd@neda.gov.ph, avolanday@neda.gov.ph, and rsdegracia@neda.gov.ph.

Thank you and best regards,
NEDA-ANRES