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MEMORANDUM

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

FROM : The OIC Director
Policy and Planning Service

SUBJECT : **REQUEST FOR COMMENTS AND INPUTS TO THE PHILIPPINES-AUSTRALIA PLAN OF ACTION**

DATE : 28 SEP 2023

This pertains to the letter from Mr. Raphael S.C. Hermoso, Acting Head of Office of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) regarding the preparations for High-Level Engagements with Australia or the 6th Philippines-Australia Ministerial Meeting (PAMM) to be held on October 09-11, 2023 at Adelaide, Australia. The biennial meeting will serve as the review mechanism for the Philippines-Australia Plan of Action (POA) and determine future priority areas for cooperation.

Please be informed that it is anticipated that a new POA will succeed the POA 2021-2022 and will be proposed during the biennial meeting to implement the Strategic Partnership. In this regard, the DFA requests for our Department's inputs on the following:

1. Updates and comments on the status of implementation of the items in the POA 2021-2022 pertaining to our Office's respective mandates; and
2. List of programs that our Office wishes to pursue with Australia to be incorporated in the new proposed POA. These proposals may be in the form of unimplemented or ongoing projects listed under the POA 2021-2022 as well as new initiatives that may be undertaken with Australia in view of the priorities of the Marcos Administration.

Relative to the above, this Office initially prepared the attached document containing 1) updates and comments on the status of implementation of items in POA 2021-2022 and 2) inputs to the new proposed POA for 2023-2026 for your comments and/or concurrence. We would also like to request your Office to identify a list of programs you wish to pursue with Australia to be incorporated in the new proposed POA.

Due to the proximity of the date of the biennial meeting, we will appreciate receiving your inputs/concurrence on or before **October 01, 2023**. You may send the advance copy of your comments and/or inputs to psddivision@gmail.com.

For information and consideration.


CHERYL LOISE T. LEAL

**A. STATUS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ITEMS UNDER NO. 10.
ENVIRONMENT OF PHILIPPINE-AUSTRALIA PLAN OF ACTION FOR
2021-2022**

| ITEM | STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION |
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| <p>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.</p> | <p>The sustainable management of corals reefs is being carried out by the Australian Center for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) in cooperation with the LGUs (Pangasinan, Cebu, Palawan and Batangas), government agencies such as (DENR-BMB, DA-BFAR, DOST-PCCAR), academe (UP MSI), and other key organizations.</p> |
| <p>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.</p> | <p>During the 19th meeting of the Experts Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade held last 19-20 February 2021, the following were the key positions/ interventions/ recommendations of the Philippines:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Supported renewal of EGILAT mandates with the findings of the Cross-Fora Assessment and suggested that EGILAT's major outcome must include "APECs Common Understanding on What Constitutes Illegal Logging" which was agreed at APEC 2015; and 2) Expressed its intention to fully support "Advancing the Trade and Distribution of Legally Harvested Forest Products in the APEC Region," which is on its second year as a policy theme. |
| <p>10.1.5. The Philippines and Australia will collaborate on air and water quality improvement strategies, waste minimisation and actions promoting circular economy.</p> | <p>Needs further comments/inputs to this.</p> <p>Attn: Environmental Management Bureau</p> |
| <p>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.</p> | <p>Last September 2022, our DENR Secretary held a bilateral meeting with Australia Head of Delegation Senator Murray Watt, Minister of Emergency Management, and concurrently Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to discuss opportunities for collaboration between</p> |

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| <p>10.2.2. The Philippines and Australia will work together to build capacity on climate risk management and on accessing climate finance and investments.</p> | <p>the two countries and also exchanged best practices in the delivery of disaster preparedness and response services and discussed developments in national efforts to address climate change and develop national resilience.</p> |
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B. PROPOSED COMMENTS AND INPUTS TO THE PHILIPPINE COUNTER-DRAFT OF THE PH-AU PLAN OF ACTION FOR 2023-2026

| AU ZERO DRAFT (SEPTEMBER 15, 2023) | PH COUNTER DRAFT (SEPTEMBER 16, 2023) |
|--|---|
| <p>8. Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Management. The Philippines and Australia will strengthen collaboration to accelerate action on climate change and address environmental concerns.</p> | <p>The Philippines and Australia will strengthen collaboration to accelerate action on climate change mitigation and adaptation and address environmental concerns.</p> |
| <p>8. Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Management. Noting existing cooperation on climate change adaptation, community resilience and Environmental protection, we will explore opportunities for further collaboration including gender-responsive climate change mitigation and adaptation, renewable energy, electric vehicles and transport decarbonisation, regional connectivity, mineral resources development, biodiversity and wildlife conservation, and nature-based solutions for climate outcomes.</p> | <p>Noting existing cooperation on climate change adaptation and mitigation, community resilience and environmental protection, we will explore opportunities for further collaboration including gender-responsive climate change mitigation and adaptation, renewable energy, electric vehicles and transport decarbonisation, regional connectivity, mineral resources, biodiversity and wildlife conservation, coastal and marine resources and nature based solutions for climate outcomes.</p> |
| <p>8. Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Management. We will seek further opportunities to work together on tackling climate change and driving the clean energy transition in regional and global forums.</p> | <p>We will seek further opportunities to work together on discussion of climate change mitigation and adaptation and driving the clean energy transition in regional and global forums.</p> |
| <p>8.1.1 The Philippines and Australia will pursue sustainable management of coral reefs and marine resources. Australia will continue to support the Philippines to</p> | <p>The Philippines and Australia will pursue sustainable management of coral reefs, coastal and marine resources. Australia will continue to support the Philippines to strengthen marine</p> |

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| strengthen marine environmental governance and monitoring by providing capacity building and research. | environmental governance and monitoring by providing capacity building and research. |
| 8.1.2 Australia and the Philippines will continue to work together to establish a national marine litter baseline in the Philippines. | No further comments |
| 8.1.3 Australia will continue to support the Philippines to strengthen infrastructure planning, prioritization and procurement, and harness Australia's renewable energy experience to support the Philippines' clean energy transition. | No further comments |
| 8.1.4 The Philippines and Australia will explore opportunities in biodiversity and wildlife conservation to prevent any new extinctions of plants or animals. | The Philippines and Australia will explore opportunities in biodiversity and wildlife conservation to protect existing endangered species and prevent any new extinctions of floral and faunal species. |
| 8.2.1 The Philippines and Australia will explore opportunities for information exchange and supply chain coordination to support the development of offshore wind in our region and respective jurisdictions. | The Philippines and Australia will explore opportunities for information exchange and supply chain coordination to support the development of offshore wind energy in our Region and respective jurisdictions. |
| 8.2.2 We will collaborate on opportunities to restore and protect high carbon ecosystems and develop sustainable livelihoods, including through forums such as the International Partnership for Blue Carbon (IPBC). | We will collaborate on opportunities to restore and protect high carbon ecosystems including blue carbon ecosystems, shift in low carbon transitions and develop sustainable livelihoods including through forums such as the International Partnership for Blue Carbon. |

PHILIPPINES–AUSTRALIA PLAN OF ACTION

2023–2026

This Plan of Action supports the Joint Declaration signed by Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. in Manila on 8 September 2023, which elevated the bilateral relationship to a Strategic Partnership. The Plan of Action, covering the period 2023–2026, provides a roadmap to implement the commitments outlined in the Joint Declaration.

1. POLITICAL AND STRATEGIC COOPERATION

The Philippines–Australia partnership is based on the spirit of friendship, shared democratic values, and a common vision for the region where strategic agency is freely exercised and sovereignty is upheld. We are committed to strengthening our ties, deepening cooperation and enhancing capacity, as we strive for a region that is open, resilient and prosperous.

We commit to deepening political and strategic cooperation through frequent high-level bilateral exchanges and meetings, as well as through political dialogues and consultations in regional mechanisms.

We will work together across the breadth of our bilateral relationship, including cooperation in the areas of political and strategic engagement, defence and security, law and justice, maritime, economic relations, development cooperation, science and innovation, environment, climate change and disaster management, education and skills, and people-to-people links.

1.1 High-level/Bilateral Engagement

The Philippines and Australia will continue to promote high-level engagement to progress outcomes on agreed priorities and deepen strategic engagement.

1.1.1 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. Australia will host in 2023 and the Philippines in 2025.

Action line: 2023 Australia to host
2025 Philippines to host

1.1.2 Annual Defence Ministers' Meeting

The annual Defence Ministers' Meeting (DMM) will set the strategic direction for defence cooperation on defense and security, maritime security, humanitarian

assistance and disaster response between Australia and the Philippines. Australia will host in 2024 and 2026, and the Philippines will host in 2025.

Action line: 2024 Australia to host
2025 Philippines to host
2026 Australia to host

1.1.3 Biennial Philippines–Australia Strategic Dialogue

The biennial Philippines–Australia Strategic Dialogue (PASD) provides an opportunity for senior officials from our respective Foreign Affairs and Defence departments to discuss strategic issues affecting our countries and region and scope opportunities for further collaboration. Australia will host in 2024 and the Philippines will host in 2026.

Action line: 2024 Australia to host
2026 Philippines to host

1.1.4 Annual Joint Defence Cooperation Committee

The annual Philippines–Australia Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDCC) serves as a high-level meeting for discussing defence cooperation, shared strategic interests and challenges in the region. The Philippines will host in 2023 and 2025, and Australia will host in 2024 and 2026.

Action line: 2023 Philippines to host
2024 Australia to host
2025 Philippines to host
2026 Australia to host

1.1.5 Annual bilateral service talks

Annual star-ranked senior officer talks between our respective Navy, Army and Air Force services provide high-level forums for discussing further collaboration and interoperability across the air, land, maritime and cybersecurity domains. In 2024 and 2026, Australia will host Navy Staff Talks and Army Staff Talks, and the Philippines will host Air Staff Talks. In 2025, Australia will host Air Staff Talks, and the Philippines will host Navy Staff Talks and Army Staff Talks.

Action line: 2024 Australia to host Navy and Army Staff Talks
2024 Philippines to host Air Staff Talks
2025 Australia to host Air Staff Talks
2025 Philippines to host Navy and Army Staff Talks
2026 Australia to host Navy and Army Staff Talks
2026 Philippines to host Air Staff Talks

1.1.6 Annual Bilateral Counter-Terrorism Consultations

The Philippines–Australia Bilateral Counter-Terrorism Consultations (BCTC) is an annual exchange of counter-terrorism expertise and information that also acts as a coordination and planning mechanism for counter-terrorism cooperation between our

two countries. The Philippines will host in 2024 and 2026, and Australia will host in 2025.

Action line: 2024 Philippines to host
2025 Australia to host
2026 Philippines to host

1.1.7 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 to discuss cooperation on areas of shared interest. Australia will host in 2024.

Action line: 2024 Australia to host

- Defence Cooperation Working Group

The Defence Cooperation Working Group (DCWG) reviews the detail of defence activities and exercises scheduled to occur in the following financial year. The Philippines will host in 2024 and 2026, and Australia will host in 2025.

Action line: 2024 Philippines to host
2025 Australia to host
2026 Philippines to host

- Annual Philippines–Australia Maritime Dialogue

Australia and the Philippines will continue to hold annual dialogues, including track 1.5 and track 1 discussions, for academics and officials to discuss maritime security, law of the sea and marine environment issues. Australia will host in 2024 and 2026, and the Philippines will host in 2025.

Action line: 2024 Australia to host
2025 Philippines to host
2026 Australia to host

- Philippines–Australia Trade, Investment and Industry Dialogue

The Philippines–Australia Trade, Investment and Industry 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 trade and investment, resolve barriers to trade, and explore areas for economic cooperation. Australia will host in 2024 and 2026, and the Philippines will host in 2025.

Action line: 2024 Australia to host
2025 Philippines to host
2026 Australia to host

- High-Level Consultations on Development Cooperation

The Philippines–Australia High-Level Consultations on Development Cooperation provides a forum to engage on the development partnership and its outcomes, and discuss continuous alignment of priorities between the two countries. Australia will host in 2024 and 2026, and the Philippines to host in 2025.

Action line: 2024 Australia to host
2025 Philippines to host
2026 Australia to host

- Philippines–Australia Agriculture Forum

The Philippines–Australia Agriculture Forum provides an opportunity for senior officials from the Philippines' Department of Agriculture and Australia's Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to discuss technical market access issues, common agricultural policy issues and to identify areas of collaboration. Australia will host in 2024 and the Philippines will host in 2026.

Action line: 2024 Australia to host
2026 Philippines to host

- Philippines–Australia Plant Technical Working Group

The Philippines–Australia Plant Technical Working Group (PTWG) will discuss and advance priority plant market access issues and harmonisation of biosecurity systems for both countries. Australia will host in 2024 and the Philippines will host in 2026.

Action line: 2024 Australia to host
2026 Philippines to host

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

The annual 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. The Philippines will host annually.

Action line: Philippines to host annually

- 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. The Philippines will host in 2024 and Australia will host in 2025.

Action line: 2024 Philippines to host
2025 Australia to host

- Other bilateral meetings may cover areas such as combatting transnational and organised crime, critical infrastructure security, non-proliferation and counter-proliferation, arms and export controls, and the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

1.2 Regional Cooperation

The Philippines and Australia will continue our strong history of close and productive regional cooperation.

- 1.2.1 Both countries remain committed to building on our cooperation under the ASEAN-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, and to supporting the broader ASEAN-led architecture, including the East Asia Summit (EAS) and the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and the Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF).
- 1.2.2 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 our commitment to continue practical cooperation under the Outlook's four areas of cooperation and upholding ASEAN's central role in advancing peace, stability and prosperity in the region.

2. DEFENCE COOPERATION

The Philippines and Australia share a common interest in maintaining the security and stability of our region. Both countries are committed to close defence cooperation and to expanding interoperability between our forces.

- 2.1.1 In addition to the annual DMM and other bilateral mechanisms for exchanges on defence issues, Australia and the Philippines will continue to work closely together in the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) framework, including by supporting the Experts' Working Groups that the other side chairs.
- 2.1.2 The Philippines and Australia will continue their program of defence education, training, exercises and activities and will broaden the scope and complexity of cooperation under the Enhanced Defence Cooperation Program.
- 2.1.3 The Philippines and Australia will expand some bilateral activities to include other countries committed to sustaining peace and security in our region, including through contributions to sub-regional cooperative activities.
- 2.1.4 The Philippines and Australia will continue to exercise freedom of navigation and overflight, safely, professionally and consistent with international law, including by conducting joint patrols in the South China Sea/West Philippine Sea and other areas of mutual interest. The Philippines and Australia will

continue to uphold the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and support the 2016 South China Sea Arbitration Arbitral Tribunal Award of 12 July 2016.

- 2.1.5 The Philippines and Australia will explore opportunities for defence industry cooperation.

3. SECURITY COOPERATION

The Philippines and Australia share a common interest in ensuring peace and security in our region. Both countries will continue to cooperate on security and counter-terrorism matters.

3.1 Counter-Terrorism and Peace

- 3.1.1 The Philippines and Australia will maintain bilateral and regional cooperation to counter terrorism and prevent and counter violent extremism through conducting counter-terrorism exercises and sharing information and intelligence, in accordance with existing information sharing arrangements and agreements.

- 3.1.2 The Australian Federal Police will continue to closely collaborate with Philippine law enforcement to combat terrorism. This includes supporting Australian Federal Police–Philippine National Police (PNP) jointly established Intelligence Offices in Mindanao and the National Capital Region, and improving PNP's operational intelligence capability to increase detection and disruption opportunities.

- 3.1.3 The Philippines and Australia will continue supporting peacebuilding in conflict-affected Mindanao, including through engagement and collaborative programming targeting groups vulnerable to radicalisation by violent extremists and supporting the livelihoods of communities, particularly for women and those in vulnerable situations.

- 3.1.4 Australia will assist the Philippines respond to violent extremism, including through supporting judicial reform and through capacity building of the judiciary, prosecutors, investigators, police and corrections officials.

3.2 Cyber Affairs

- 3.2.1 The Philippines and Australia will continue existing cooperation on cyber affairs, including bilateral and regional capacity building activities, and information sharing. This will be supported by finalising a bilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Cyber and Critical Technology Digital Cooperation.

3.3 Critical Infrastructure Security

- 3.3.1 Australia and the Philippines will work together to further develop the Philippines' capacity in critical infrastructure security, particularly in including transport and telecommunications security.

3.3.2 Australia will continue to support the Philippines to implement a risk-based regulatory approach to aviation security at Philippine Airports including through collaboration and capacity building activities.

3.3.3 Australia will 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.

3.4 Women, Peace and Security

3.4.1 Australia and the Philippines will continue collaboration on the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda, including through defence, security and law and justice cooperation (as outlined in this Plan of Action), and through the ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on WPS, and in global fora.

3.5 Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation

3.5.1 The Philippines and Australia will continue to cooperate to advance arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation goals, including through regional and multilateral bodies, and to strengthen the global non-multilateral non-proliferation architecture.

4. LAW AND JUSTICE

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

4.1 Law Enforcement Cooperation

4.1.1 The Australian Federal Police will continue to collaborate with Philippine law enforcement on matters of mutual strategic and operational interest. Activities will focus on countering terrorism and violent extremism, money laundering, human trafficking (including through increasing resources to counter child exploitation), organised crime, drug trafficking and cyber crime.

4.2 People Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons

4.2.1 Australia and the Philippines will continue cooperation in combating human trafficking, and participate in joint exercises and activities, including through the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime.

4.2.2 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.

4.3 Intercountry Adoption

4.3.1 Australia has an ongoing commitment to the Philippines–Australia intercountry adoption program and to working with the Philippines to ensure the best interests of children are met. We 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.

4.4 Preventing Child Sexual Abuse

4.4.1 The Australian Federal Police will continue to collaborate with Philippine domestic and foreign law enforcement partners to detect and disrupt those engaged in the sexual abuse and exploitation of children, remove victims from harm and address the growth of online sexual abuse and exploitation of children at the source.

4.4.2 The Australian Federal Police will continue supporting the development of the Philippine Internet Crimes Against Children Centre (PICACC).

4.5 Anti-money laundering

4.5.1 The Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre (AUSTRAC) will continue to strengthen its engagement with the Philippine Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) through the exchange of financial intelligence and regulatory information, and joint financial intelligence analysis to identify and disrupt money laundering and terrorism financing risks. This includes through ongoing capacity building programs as well as regional leadership and cooperation under the Financial Intelligence Consultative Group.

5. MARITIME COOPERATION

As maritime nations, the Philippines and Australia will pursue maritime cooperation in full adherence to international law, particularly UNCLOS, to support greater economic integration and maritime security.

5.1 Civil Maritime Security Cooperation

5.1.1 The Philippines and Australia will consider developing a MoU on Cooperation on Civil Maritime Security.

5.1.2 The Philippines and Australia will continue to enhance civil maritime policy and operational capabilities and outcomes through the exchange of technical expertise and advice in support of inter-agency maritime coordination, furthering information sharing and utilising activities to improve inter-agency cooperation and interoperability whilst building capabilities.

5.1.3 Australia will continue to provide support to the Philippines to strengthen maritime governance arrangements, build institutional and operational capacity within civil-maritime agencies, and promote maritime policy dialogue and analysis.

5.2 Maritime Shipping

5.2.1 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.

5.2.2 The Philippines and Australia will discuss the possibility of concluding a merchant shipping agreement.

5.3 Capacity Building in the Maritime Transport Industry

5.3.1 The Philippines and Australia will cooperate through international and regional organisations to improve the operational safety and environmental efficiency of international shipping.

6. ECONOMIC RELATIONS

The Philippines and Australia agree to uphold the principles of free and fair trade and open markets. We will work together to bolster our economic security, expand bilateral trade and investment, and explore opportunities to broaden economic cooperation.

We will help business take advantage of meaningful market access opportunities, eliminate unnecessary barriers to trade and investment, foster a level playing field, and pursue trade facilitation measures to achieve inclusive economic growth. We will continue to work closely to enhance the free trade agreements between our countries.

6.1 Bilateral Trade and Investment

6.1.1 Both countries will enhance trade and business opportunities through participation in trade promotion activities such as business missions, seminars or forums, exchange of trade-related information, and enhancement of linkages with industry groups and government agencies.

6.1.2 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 the future direction of bilateral trade and investment, including through business missions and information session exchanges.

6.1.3 The Philippines and Australia will support, sustain, promote and enhance the flow of investment in priority sectors, such as applied sciences, mining, shipbuilding, infrastructure, clean energy, health, innovation, education and skills, information technology and business process management (IT-BPM), agricultural technology, agribusiness, research and development, marine and aquaculture.

6.1.4 Australia and the Philippines will continue to work together to explore opportunities to broaden cooperation on mineral resources development, mining and minerals processing and clean energy.

6.2 Regional and Global Trade and Investment

- 6.2.1 The Philippines and Australia will continue to work together to strengthen and reform the multilateral trading system with the World Trade Organization (WTO) at its core, including fixing the dispute settlement system by 2024. We will work closely to support strong outcomes from Ministerial Conferences of the WTO, including at the 13th Ministerial Conference in February 2024.
- 6.2.2 [pending ratification and entry into force] The Philippines and Australia will work together to implement the upgraded Agreement Establishing the ASEAN–Australia–New Zealand Free Trade Area (AANZFTA), and will work together within the upgraded AANZFTA.
- 6.2.3 The Philippines and Australia will cooperate to ensure effective implementation of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (RCEP) and will work together with RCEP.
- 6.2.4 The Philippines and Australia will work together to complete the Indo–Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) negotiations. The Philippines and Australia are working towards implementing IPEF Pillar II (Supply Chains) objectives and developing capacity building projects across all pillars of IPEF.
- 6.2.5 The Philippines and Australia will continue to cooperate in economic fora including ASEAN and APEC to promote our shared priorities.
- 6.2.6 The Philippines and Australia will cooperate on economic prospects of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), including trade and investment opportunities and linkages created by the Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East ASEAN Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA).

7. DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

We will continue to work together for a better future for our countries and the broader region through cooperation informed by the Philippine Development Plan 2023–2028, Australia’s International Development Policy, and as agreed in the Philippines Australia Development Partnership Plan.

We will continue to exchange knowledge and information, strengthen institutions, and empower local communities to be safer and more resilient against the impacts of climate change and disasters. We will explore opportunities to enhance cooperation on economic governance, climate resilience, and renewable energy transition.

- 7.1.1 To ensure alignment of priorities and a focused approach, we will agree to a Philippines–Australia Development Partnership Plan (DPP) covering the period 2024 to 2029. The DPP will be developed by Australia, following deep consultation with the Philippine Government and other partners. The DPP will set out shared objectives, expected outcomes, and approaches to evaluation and learning.

- 7.1.2 In the interim period, Australia will continue to implement our development cooperation program in the Philippines with its longstanding focus on education and skills, peace and security, and disaster and climate resilience (as per actions outlined in paragraphs 9.1.2, 3.1.3 and 8.3.1 respectively).

7.2 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.

7.3 Cooperation in Science and Innovation

- 7.3.1 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 Philippine Department of Science and Technology and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and Australian universities and institutes.
- 7.3.2 Australia and the Philippines will collaborate to build sustainable agriculture sectors through policy exchanges and sharing information.
- 7.3.3 Under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Scientific and Technical Cooperation, the Philippine Department of Science and Technology–Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST–PCAARRD) and the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) will continue to support collaboration in science, technology, and innovation through joint research, capacity building (including scholarships), experts and knowledge exchange.
- 7.3.4 To support the Philippines' food security, ACIAR and DOST–PCAARRD will work together and partner with other stakeholders to pursue further collaboration in research and capacity building under the National Soil Health Strategy MoU.
- 7.3.5 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, geology, metallurgical engineering, mining, naval architecture, health, biomedical devices, and nuclear science and technology through joint research and development, research training, scholarships, exchange of experts, and exchange of technical documentation and information.

7.4 Smart Cities

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

7.4.2 The Philippines and Australia will support cooperation to develop sustainable green infrastructure that will strengthen interconnectivity and inclusive growth, and support climate change adaptation and mitigation.

7.4.3 Innovation, Digitalization, and Smart Governance

8. ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT

The Philippines and Australia will strengthen collaboration to accelerate action on climate change and address environmental concerns.

Noting existing cooperation on climate change adaptation, community resilience and environmental protection, we will explore opportunities for further collaboration including gender-responsive climate change mitigation and adaptation, renewable energy, electric vehicles and transport decarbonisation, regional connectivity, mineral resources development, biodiversity and wildlife conservation, and nature-based solutions for climate outcomes.

We will seek further opportunities to work together on tackling climate change and driving the clean energy transition in regional and global forums.

8.1 Environment

8.1.1 The Philippines and Australia will pursue sustainable management of coral reefs and marine resources. Australia will continue to support the Philippines to strengthen marine environmental governance and monitoring by providing capacity building and research.

8.1.2 Australia and the Philippines will continue to work together to establish a national marine litter baseline in the Philippines.

8.1.3 Australia will continue to support the Philippines to strengthen infrastructure planning, prioritisation and procurement, and harness Australia's renewable energy experience to support the Philippines' clean energy transition.

8.1.4 The Philippines and Australia will explore opportunities in biodiversity and wildlife conservation to prevent any new extinctions of plants or animals.

8.2 Climate Change

8.2.1 The Philippines and Australia will explore opportunities for information exchange and supply chain coordination to support the development of offshore wind in our region and respective jurisdictions.

8.2.2 We will collaborate on opportunities to restore and protect high carbon ecosystems and develop sustainable livelihoods, including through forums such as the International Partnership for Blue Carbon (IPBC).

8.3 Disaster Management

- 8.3.1 The Philippines and Australia will enhance cooperation and support exchange of best practices on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM), emergency communications, and locally led resilience building.
- 8.3.2 Strengthening Institutions and Empowering Localities against Disasters and Climate Change (SHIELD) Program

9. EDUCATION AND SKILLS

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

- 9.1.1 Where appropriate, Australia and the Philippines will explore opportunities for information exchange on education reform including the Philippine K-12 curriculum review, improving teacher quality, and engagement of stakeholders for support and collaboration.
- 9.1.2 Following the MoU on Cooperation on Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET), Australia and the Philippines will discuss ways Australia may be able to support capacity building of the Philippines' Technical Vocational Education and Training system in areas such as industry engagement, occupational standards, and skills development and assessment in priority industry sectors.
- 9.1.3 The Philippines and Australia will explore opportunities to support transnational delivery of technical and vocational education and training and partnerships between providers in priority sectors for both countries.
- 9.1.4 The Philippines and Australia will explore opportunities to reduce barriers to mutually beneficial cooperation in higher education and research, bilaterally and through multilateral fora such as APEC.
- 9.1.5 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.
- 9.1.6 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.
- 9.1.7 Under the agreement establishing the AANZFTA Economic Cooperation Work Program, Australia will continue to provide technical capacity building assistance, including to 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.
- 9.1.8 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).

9.1.9 Australia will support the establishment of the Philippines Institute at the Australian National University to foster stronger institutional and people-to-people links and support evidence-based policymaking and reform.

10. PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE LINKS

We will work together to enhance people-to-people linkages and mobility including in labour, education, technical and vocational education and training, research, and building greater institutional partnerships and collaboration.

10.1 Bilateral Cooperation

10.1.1 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.

10.1.2 Australia and the Philippines will work together to enhance bilateral engagement between our political leaders and parliamentary systems, including through parliamentary and political exchanges.

10.2 Cultural Cooperation

10.2.1 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.

10.2.2 Australia and the Philippines will explore practical steps to cooperate on self-determination and empowerment of our Indigenous Peoples, including to advance Indigenous rights.

10.2.3 Australia and the Philippines will explore opportunities for cooperation to encourage the expansion of bilateral cultural exchanges, the sharing of expertise in heritage collection and protection of Indigenous knowledge, and collaboration in arts and culture, including under the Executive Programme 2022–2026 for the 1977 Australia–Philippines Cultural Agreement.

10.3 Work and Holiday and Labour Mobility

10.3.1 Australia and the Philippines will promote the effective implementation of Work and Holiday Visa arrangements.

10.3.2 Australia and the Philippines will explore cooperation on raising awareness about the rights and welfare of migrant workers, advocating for policies that support their well-being and are gender and age-responsive, and strengthening our systems for monitoring and enforcing labour migration laws and standards.

10.4 Tourism and Aviation Connectivity

10.4.1 Australian and Philippine tourism administrators and promotion agencies will exchange knowledge to support enhanced tourism flows.

10.4.2 Australian and Philippine officials will seek to update our bilateral air services arrangements, and work with the private sector to facilitate future passenger and freight growth between Australia and the Philippines, including exploring the possibility of direct flights between Cebu and Australian cities.

The Philippines and Australia agree to review and extend this Plan of Action at the end of term as required.

PHILIPPINES - AUSTRALIA PLAN OF ACTION

2021-2022

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 2021-2022:

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: 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: 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: 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: 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: Timing to be agreed

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, COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics, vaccine security for vaccine-preventable diseases, 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, geology, metallurgical engineering, mining, naval architecture, 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 subject to receipt of authorisation.

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.

The Philippines and Australia agree to review and extend this Plan of Action at the end of term as required.