



**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KAGAWARAN NG KAPALIGIRAN AT LIKAS YAMAN**



MEMORANDUM

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

FROM : The Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning and Foreign Assisted and Special Projects, **and Chairperson, DENR Trade Focal Group**

SUBJECT : **DENR TRADE FOCAL GROUP MEETING NO. 2023-02 HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MEETING**

DATE : **04 JAN 2024**

This has reference to the DENR Trade Focal Group Meeting No. 2023-02 held last 13 December 2023, via Zoom videoconferencing. In this regard, hereunder are the highlights of the meeting with corresponding action taken and next steps per agenda item:

Agenda	Highlights	Next Steps / Action Taken
I. Present the composition and TOR of the Technical Working Group on Trade and Environment under the Technical Committee on WTO Matters	During the TCWM meeting held last 10 October 2023, the TWCM member adopted and endorsed the Terms of Reference of the Trade and Environment Technical Working Group. TWG TOR The PPS presented the adopted TOR particularly the DENR's participation to the TWG.	Trade Focal Group members noted the DENR membership under the TCWM Technical Working Group on Trade and Environment, which include the following Offices: PPS, EMB, BMB, and FMB

<p>II. Coalition of Trade and Ministers</p>	<p>The DTI is requesting the DENR to provide comments on the Framework of Actions of the Coalition of Trade Ministers on Climate, which was circulated last 21 November 2023.</p>	<p>To date, only ERDB has submitted their inputs. Trade Focals are reminded to submit their inputs to PPS by January.</p> <p>Kindly refer to the memoranda dated 21 November 2023 (Annex B).</p>
<p>III. Discussion on Joint Statement Initiative (JSI) -Investment Facilitation for Development Agreement</p>	<p>BOI will lead the Needs Assessment and will enjoin the inter-agency, investment promotion agencies (IPAs), local government units (LGUs), and policy-makers considering the wide scope of investments. This will also be an essential exercise to build investment facilitation capacity and expertise of governments and their policymakers to strengthen intraregional investment.</p> <p>The Philippines - BOI supports the formulation of a joint ministerial statement declaration that will be a political declaration and will not entail the consent to be bound yet.</p> <p>Once there is a decision to incorporate IFDA under Annex 4 plurilateral, PH will start working on the acceptance of IFDA. The domestic procedures will be coursed through the appropriate bodies (TCWM and TRM), supported by the inter-agency (COC).</p>	<p>Trade Focals to note the progress and next steps on the ongoing JSI-IFDA discussion, particularly the need for the Agencies to undergo the Needs Assessment and other domestic processes such as the submission of the COC.</p>
<p>IV. Discussion on JSI – Fisheries Subsidies Agreement</p>	<p>In a letter dated 13 September 2023, the DA sent a letter requesting our support through the COCs as a prerequisite</p>	<p>Trade Focals to note the updates on the JSI - FSA as well as the need for DENR to submit the COC before the year-end.</p>

	<p>document for the domestic acceptance process to the WTO-FSA. However, DA-BFAR temporarily put on hold the said request as per advice and pending its presentation to the Cabinet-level Tariff and Related Matters and the Technical Committee on Tariff and Related Matters (CTRM and TCTRM).</p> <p>According to DA-BFAR, during the CTRM Meeting on December 5, 2023, the DA presented the WTO-FSA to the CTRM. It was agreed to endorse it to DFA through a resolution in parallel with the request letter soliciting the COCs from relevant agencies such as DENR, DTI, NEDA, and DA.</p>	<p>To date, only FMB has submitted their concurrence.</p>
<p>V. Discussion on Green Economy under ASEAN – China FTA</p>	<p>Following the launch of the FTA negotiations in November 2022, ASEAN and China have been committed to working closely together to deepen trade and investment relations, enhance regional economic integration, and boost ASEAN-China economic cooperation.</p> <p>Through the upgrade negotiations, both Parties have acknowledged the importance of enhancing the ACFTA by focusing on trade opportunities in the areas of digital economy and green economy, promotion of investment, tourism flows, e-commerce, consumer protection, development</p>	<p>Trade Focals to note the need for DENR to submit comments on China’s draft text for Green Economy and nominate a focal person (at least a senior technical level staff) who will join the DENR pool of experts for ACFTA relative to the Green Economy Chapter.</p> <p>To date, only the nominations from the ERDB and FMB have been received by the PPS.</p>

	<p>of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), and financial services, among others. As such, the topic of Green Economy is a key agreed element to further Parties' existing commitments and help ensure that the ACFTA remains relevant to our businesses, future-ready, and responsive to global challenges.</p> <p>A total of four (4) rounds of negotiations were convened in 2023. The 5th round of negotiation is scheduled for January 2024 in China. The target conclusion of negotiations is September 2024.</p>	
<p>VI. Updates on the ASEAN-Canada FTA Trade and Environment</p>	<p>Following the launch of the ACAFTA negotiations at the 10th AEM-Canada Consultations in November 2021, the ACAFTA Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC) intersessionally established subsidiary bodies to begin negotiations on various areas or chapters under the ACAFTA. For the goods market access negotiations, the responsible subsidiary body is the Working Group on Trade in Goods (WG-TIG).</p> <p>Proposed Elements on ACAFTA Trade and Environment Provisions: Trade and Labor, Trade and Environment, Inclusive Trade (Gender and Indigenous Peoples),</p>	<p>The members noted the consensus made by the AMS during the 2nd Joint Expert Group Meeting on Trade and Environment of the ASEAN-Canada Free Trade Agreement to defer the decision to establish a working group on Trade and Environment in 2024.</p> <p>Considering the technical works on ACAFTA for 2024, DENR Offices that are yet to provide their nomination are being reminded to submit their technical experts to the Policy and Planning Service by January.</p> <p>To date, only the nominations from the BMB and ERDB have been received by the PPS.</p>

	Trade and Indigenous People.	
	During the 2nd Joint Expert Group Meeting on Trade and Environment of the ASEAN-Canada Free Trade Agreement, there was a consensus to defer the decision to establish a working group in 2024, considering that there are still a number of issues in the draft scoping paper which require clarification from Canada and discussion with other Ad-hoc Expert Groups.	
VII. Updates on the ASEAN - Trade in Goods (ATIGA) upgraded negotiations	As of November 2023, the ATIGA TNC has convened seven (7) rounds of negotiations and completed two chapters (ECOTECH and MSMEs) (Annexes 1 and 2). The TNC has agreed on the inclusion of two new elements: Trade in Crisis Situations and Trade and Environment. Text Based negotiations are ongoing with the eighth negotiating round scheduled in January 2024.	Trade Focals noted that the ATIGA TNC has convened seven (7) rounds of negotiations and completed two chapters. The ASEAN Secretary organized a Regional Workshop on Remanufactured Goods which was conducted in a hybrid format last 13 December 2023 in Indonesia. EMB to provide the highlights and ways forward on the above-mentioned Workshop.
VIII. Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity		Trade Focals noted the updates on the Environment Chapter, particularly the 8 articles that were discussed during the 6th round of Negotiation.
IX. EU - Generalized Scheme of Preferences Plus (GSP+)	Following the 4 th Monitoring Mission held last March 2023, the Department submitted inputs on the positive development of the country's implementation of conventions/commitments under the Environment	The Philippine country report was released by the European Commission last 22 November 2023. The report can be access using this link: http://tinyurl.com/36aaau3ma The members noted the highlights of the outcome of the

	Cluster as part of the European Union-Generalized Scheme of Preferences-Plus (EU-GSP+) as part of the Philippine Country Report.	country report on Environment related matters.
X. Philippine Bilateral Engagements		
a. PH – Korea FTA		Trade Focals to note the submission of the DENR’s COC submitted to DTI last 13 November 2023.
b. PH – UAE CEPA		The members noted that the PH - UAE CEPA TOR has been signed and the technical works will start in 2024. Trade Focals to provide official representatives as part of the DENR negotiating team. Kindly refer to the memoranda dated 18 December 2023 (Annex C).
c. PH – EU FTA		The members noted the highlights of the stocktaking exercise and intersessional meeting conducted from September - December 2023.

Please submit your comments/inputs to the Policy and Planning Service on or before **05 January 2024** through this e-mail address: psddivision@gmail.com, copy furnished policy@denr.gov.ph.

For your appropriate action, please.


NORALENE M. UY



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (02) 8920-0689 / 8925-8275 / 0917-885-3367 / 0917-868-3367
Website: <http://www.denr.gov.ph> / E-mail: web@denr.gov.ph

JUL 25 2023

SPECIAL ORDER

No. 2023 - 458

**SUBJECT: DESIGNATING OFFICIALS AND PERSONNEL AS MEMBERS
OF THE DENR ENVIRONMENTAL TRADE FOCAL GROUP**

In the interest of the service and in order to effectively carry out the functions of the DENR to participate in trade-related events, to ensure that environmental laws and policies are duly considered and incorporated in our country's trade negotiations, trade agreements and commitments, and to ensure that the Department is regularly consulted on issues regarding environmental goods and services, various negotiating texts, and other matters related to trade and the environment, the following officials and personnel are hereby designated as members of the DENR Environmental Trade Focal Group:

CHAIRPERSON:

Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning and Foreign Assisted and Special Projects

VICE-CHAIRPERSON:

Director, Policy and Planning Service (PPS)

MEMBERS:

Chief, Policy Studies Division

(4) Technical Staff, Policy Studies Division

Legal Affairs Service

Director, Legal Affairs Service

Chief, Legal Crisis Prevention and Management Division

(1) Lawyer, Legal Crisis Prevention and Management Division

Climate Change Service

Chief, Climate Change Information and Technical Support Division

Biodiversity Management Bureau

Chief, Wildlife Resources Division

Chief, Wildlife Regulation Section

(1) Technical Staff, Wildlife Regulation Section

Forest Management Bureau

Chief, Forest Policy, Planning and Knowledge Management Division

Chief, Forest Economics Section
(1) Technical Staff, Forest Policy Section

Chief, Forest Investment Development Division
Chief, Forest Investment Packaging Section

Chief, Forest Resources Management Division
(1) Technical Staff, Forest Resources Management Division

Environmental Management Bureau (EMB)
Chief, Policy, Planning and Program Development Division
(1) Technical Staff, Policy, Planning and Program Development Division

Chief, Environmental Quality Management Division
(1) Technical Staff, Chemical Management Section
(2) Technical Staff, Hazardous Waste Management Section
(2) Technical Staff, Air Quality Management Section

Chief, Solid Waste Management Division
(1) Technical Staff Solid Waste Management Division

Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB)
Chief, Mining Tenements Management Division
(1) Technical Staff, Mining Tenements Management Division

Chief, Mineral Economics, Information and Publication Division
(3) Technical Staff, Mineral Economics, Information and Publication Division

Chief, Metallurgical Technology Division
(1) Technical Staff, Metallurgical Technology Division

Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau (ERDB)
Chief, Urban Ecosystem Research Division
Legal Officer, Office of the Director

Attached in this Order is the list of members with their corresponding designation, contact information, and field of expertise who shall compose the DENR Trade Focal Group (**Annex A**), which shall be updated as necessary.

Roles and Responsibilities. The DENR Environmental Trade Focal Group shall act as follows:

1. Update DENR officials on the current environmental trade-related issues which may arise during trade negotiations or regular inter-agency meetings;

2. Provide appropriate environmental trade-related data, information, or position that may be requested by other government agencies such as the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), etc., to address sectoral environmental trade-related issues; and,
3. Participate in trade-related meetings, trainings, workshops and related events.

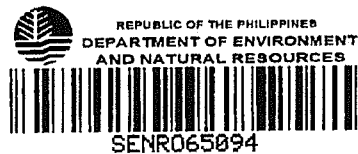
Expenses to be incurred from the conduct of activities shall be charged against each respective offices allocation, subject to the usual accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

This Order shall take effect immediately.



AUGUSTO D. DELA PEÑA
Undersecretary

Organizational Transformation and
Human Resources





Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (02) 8920-0689 / 8925-8275 / 0917-885-3367 / 0917-868-3367
Website: <http://www.dcnr.gov.ph> / E-mail: web@denr.gov.ph

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



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCE
KAGAWARAN NG KAPALIGIRAN AT LIKAS YAMAN



MEMORANDUM

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

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

SUBJECT : **SIGNED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE NEGOTIATION OF A COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (CEPA) BETWEEN THE UAE AND THE PHILIPPINES**

DATE :

This has reference to an email dated 15 December 2023 from the Department of Trade and Industry – Bureau of Trade and International Relations, transmitting a copy of the signed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Negotiation of a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between the UAE and the Philippines that was signed on the sidelines of the COP28 in Dubai.

Please be informed that the DTI is preparing the necessary documents to secure the mandate to negotiate, which will include, among others, the negotiating structure that composes the lead negotiators and their alternates for the different chapters and annexes of the PH-UAE CEPA. For guidance, please refer to the PH CEPA negotiating team below:

Chapter/Annex	Lead Agency
Trade in Goods	DTI/DA/BOI
TBT-SPS	DA
Trade Remedies	DTI-BIS
Rules of Origin	BOI
Customs Procedure and Trade Facilitation	BOC
Trade in Services	NEDA
Financial Services	DOF
Professional Services (annex)	PRC
Movement of Natural Persons (annex)	DMW/DOLE
Digital Trade	DTI/DICT

Movement of Natural Persons (annex)	DMW/DOLE
Digital Trade	DTI/DICT
Investments	BOI-Legal
Economic and Technical Cooperation	DTI-RGMS
MSME	DTI-BSMED
Trade and Sustainable Development (TSD)	DOLE/DENR/NEDA-ANRES
Intellectual Property	IPOPHIL
Government Procurement	GPPB
Competition and Consumer Protection	PCC
Legal and Institutional Issues	DOJ

In this regard, may we kindly request your respective Offices to nominate at least one (1) of your Trade Focal/s for the PH-UAE CEPA – Trade and Sustainable Development (TSD) matters as part of the DENR's negotiating team. We would appreciate receiving your responses **on or before 20 December 2023** through our email addresses: psddivision@gmail.com and policy@denr.gov.ph.

For your preferential action, please.


CHERYL LOISE T. LEAL
for 8

cc: DENR Trade Focals