



**MEMORANDUM**

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

**FROM :** **The Undersecretary**  
Policy, Planning and International Affairs

**SUBJECT :** **UPDATES ON THE INDO-PACIFIC ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK FOR PROSPERITY (IPEF)**

**DATE :** MAR 01 2024

This has reference to the updates on the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) presented during the Technical Committee on Tariff Related Matters (TCTRM) Meeting No. 2024-01 held last 13 February 2024. In this regard, below are the updates on IPEF Pillar I – IV, for the DENR IPEF focal's information.

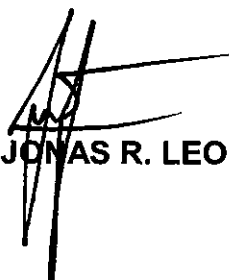
| <b>Pillar/ Agreement</b>  | <b>Status/ Next Steps</b>   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Pillar I (Trade)          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Negotiations for Inclusivity and Technical Assistance and Economic Cooperation (TAEC) Chapter were substantially concluded in November 2023 in San Francisco.</li><li>• Negotiation for GRP, SDR, Trade Facilitation, Agriculture, Competition Policy, Labor, Digital Trade and <b>Environment</b> to continue in 2024. (see <i>notional work program for Pillar I, attached as Annex A</i>)</li><li>• Virtual Chief Negotiators' and Ministerial Meetings in December 2024</li><li>• No indication of target date for the conclusion/signing of the Trade Pillar</li></ul> |
| Pillar II (Supply Chains) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Entry into Force of the Supply Chain Agreement is on 24 February 2024</li><li>• BOI is currently consolidating the COCs for the Agreement</li><li>• DTI to submit a complete set of documents to the DFA for endorsement to the Office of the President, DTI to request DFA's opinion/assessment on the nature of the Agreement for purposes of ratification</li></ul>  |

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| Pillar III (Clean Economy) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is an ongoing legal scrubbing to finalize the Pillar III Agreements by the end of February 2024. An in-person legal review of the Agreements will be held on 10-23 February 2024 in Washington, DC. The following agency will participate in the in-person review: DOJ, DOE, DOF, and DTI</li> <li>• For Pillar III, there will be a conduct of the Clean Economy Investor Forum in June 2024 in Singapore</li> <li>• For the IPEF Agreement and Pillars III and IV, partners to begin/continue their respective domestic process</li> <li>• Target publication of the Agreements in March 2024 and signing in June 2024</li> </ul> |
| Pillar IV (Fair Economy)   |  |
| IPEF Overarching Agreement |  |

Please be informed that the Environment Chapter will continue the negotiations by March, May and, July 2024:

- March: Virtual Stocktaking exercise and next steps
- May: Virtual discussion on the Forest Management
- July: Virtual Discussion on the Good and Services

For your information and consideration, please.

  
**ATTY. JONAS R. LEONES**

**cc:** *Office of the Secretary*  
*Undersecretary for Legal and Administration*  
*Assistant Secretary for International Affairs*  
*Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning and Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects*  
*IPEF Focal Persons*

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**TCTRM Meeting No. 2024-01**

| Subject  | Annex |
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| Highlights of the TCTRM Meeting provided by the Secretariat  | A     |
| Draft memorandum re TWG including its attachments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• DENR letter dated 17 April 2023</li><li>• DENR letter dated 28 July 2023</li><li>• NEDA memorandum 16 February 2024</li></ul> | B     |
| Draft memorandum re IPEF including its attachments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• IPEF Pillar I – Notional Calendar</li></ul>  | C     |

**SUMMARY OF AGREEMENTS AND ACTION TAKEN**  
**NEDA Board Technical Committee on Tariff and Related Matters Meeting**  
 Tuesday, 13 February 2024, 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM, Via Zoom

| Item No. | Item  | Action/ Resolution   |
|----------|---|--|
| I.       | Agenda  | The Committee approved the agenda.   |
| II.      | Confirmation of Minutes of the TCTRM Meeting on 01 December 2023  | The Committee requested members to submit comments on the minutes of the TCTRM meeting on or before 20 February 2024. If no comments are received, the minutes of the meeting shall be deemed approved and confirmed.  |
| III.     | Secretariat Report on Matters Arising   |  |
|          | A. Executive Order (EO) No. 12, s. 2023 Implementing the Temporary Reduction of the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) Tariff Rates on Certain Electric Vehicles (EV) and EV Parts and Components | The Committee agreed that the review of EO 12 shall be discussed under Agenda Item IV.   |
|          | B. Finalization of the List of Products for the Implementation of Countermeasures on the Dispute Case Thailand – Customs and Fiscal Measures on Cigarettes from the Philippines (DS 371)  | The Committee noted that the Department of Trade and Industry will continue to monitor developments on the case.   |
| IV.      | Tariff Commission Report and Recommendation on the Comprehensive Review of the Most Favoured Nation Tariff Structure  | <p>The Committee agreed to create a Technical Working Group tasked to undertake further discussion/review on the TC recommendations on the comprehensive tariff review, particularly the concerns and positions raised on certain products.</p> <p>The TWG shall be chaired by the TC and shall be comprised of representatives from the DA, DTI, BOI, DOF, BSP, DOLE, DENR, BOC, DFA, NEDA, and DOTr. The DOE shall be invited as</p> |

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|          |   | <p>resource of the TWG for certain products. The TWG members were requested to designate representatives to the working group.</p> <p>The Committee requested the TWG to submit its report/recommendation to the TCTRM by the last week of April 2024.</p>   |
| V.       | Updates on Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) for Negotiation in 2024   |  |
|          | <p>A. Philippine – European Union FTA</p> <p>B. Philippines – United Arab Emirates Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)</p> <p>C. Philippines – India Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA)</p> | <p>The Committee noted the updates and summary of next steps on the PH-EU FTA and PH-UAE CEPA.</p> <p>On the PH-EU FTA, the CTRM endorsement of PH participation in negotiations shall be requested, taking into consideration PH and EU announcement of resumption of FTA negotiations.</p> <p>The Committee approved, in principle, the draft Terms of Reference on the Philippines-India Preferential Trade Agreement, subject to comments by 20 February 2024.</p> |
| VI.      | Updates on FTA Engagements  |  |
|          | <p>A. Philippines – Republic of Korea FTA</p> <p>B. Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity</p>  | <p>The Committee noted the updates and summary of next steps on the FTA engagements.</p>   |

| Item No. | Item   | Action/ Resolution               |
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|          | <p data-bbox="336 383 676 584">C. Proposed Philippine Accession to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership</p> <p data-bbox="336 622 676 685">D. ASEAN and ASEAN+ FTAs</p> |                                  |
| VII.     | Other Matters  | No other matters were discussed. |



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



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**cc:** *Office of the Secretary  
Undersecretary for Legal and Administration  
Assistant Secretary for International Affairs  
Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning and Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects  
IPEF Focal Persons*



## 2024 IPEF Trade Pillar Engagement Schedule

### January:

*January 29:*

- **IPEF Virtual CNs Call:** Call will cover updates/2024 schedule across all Pillars, inc NSC-led initiatives

### February:

*Week of February 5-7:*

- **Competition Chapter:** Virtual stock-taking meeting and discussion of next steps.

*Week of February 26*

- **SDR Chapter:** Virtual check-in on concluded chapter text. Seek views potential 2024 activities.

### March:

- **Trade Pillar Legal and Institutional Chapters:** Virtual discussion on **Indigenous Peoples** exception.
- **Environment Chapter:** Virtual stock-taking meeting and discussion on next steps.
- **Agriculture Chapter:** Virtual stock-taking meeting and discussion on next steps.

### April:

- **Digital Chapter:** Virtual discussion on **ICT Network Infrastructure Security** issues
- **Labor Chapter:** Virtual discussion on “emerging labor issues” section under the Cooperation article, with a focus on labor rights for gig and platform workers and labor concerns involving employer use of digital technology in the workplace.

### May:

- **Trade Pillar Legal and Institutional Chapters:** Virtual discussion on how **Facilitated Consultations** would be implemented.
- **Environment Chapter:** Virtual discussion on **Sustainable Forest Management**.
- **Agriculture Chapter:** Virtual discussion on outstanding issues.

### June:

- **Digital Chapter:** Virtual discussion on **Digital Equity and Inclusion**
- **Inclusivity Chapter:** Virtual check-in regarding future cooperative activities.
- **Technical Assistance and Economic Chapter:** Virtual check-in regarding future cooperative activities.

### July:

- **Trade Pillar Legal and Institutional Chapters:** Virtual conceptual discussion on **arbitration**.
- **Environment Chapter:** Virtual discussion on **Environmental Goods and Services**.

- **Labor Chapter:** Virtual discussion on addressing forced labor in supply chains, also a section under the Cooperation article.
- **Agriculture Chapter:** Virtual discussion on outstanding issues.

**August:**

- **Digital Chapter:** Virtual discussion on **Artificial Intelligence**.
- **Customs Administration and Trade Facilitation Chapter:** Hybrid meeting on the margins on APEC SOM3 for check-in on closed text, updates from Parties on outstanding brackets, and views on potential group activities.
- **GRP Chapter:** Virtual check-in to discuss outstanding paragraph and footnote. Seek update on domestic clearance of transition periods.

**September:**

- *No meetings scheduled*

**October:**

- **Labor Chapter:** Virtual discussion of the procedural provisions of the labor chapter.

**November:**

- *No meetings scheduled*

**December:**

*Week of December 2-6:*

- **Trade Pillar:** Virtual CNs check-in.

*Week of December 9 – 13:*

- **Trade Pillar:** Virtual Ministerial (TBC).