



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



**BAGONG PILIPINAS**

**MEMORANDUM**

**FOR : The Directors**  
Climate Change Service  
Legal Affairs Service  
Forest Management Bureau  
Biodiversity Management Bureau  
Environment Management Bureau  
Ecosystem Research and Development Bureau

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

**SUBJECT : VETTING/INPUTS ON THE PROPOSED DRAFT PARAGRAPH ON TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT TO BE INCLUDED IN THE 13TH WTO MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE FINAL DECLARATION**

**DATE : 15 JAN 2024**

This has reference to the electronic mail dated 11 January 2023, from the Department of Trade and Industry, transmitting the report provided by the Philippine Permanent Mission in Geneva (PM-WTO), regarding the draft working documents of the Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE).

In this regard, we would like to request your comment/vetting on the draft language on Trade and Environment to be included in the 13th WTO Ministerial Conference Final Declaration below.

<b>Draft Paragraph on Trade and Environment</b>	<b>WTO – PM preferred language</b>
We reaffirm the multilateral trading system's crucial role in responding to the global environmental challenges of climate change and related natural disasters, pollution, and biodiversity loss and in achieving the UN 2030 Agenda and its SDGs in so far as they concern WTO mandates and acknowledging Members' diverse economic levels and needs. To support sustainable development, we commit to enhancing cooperation in trade, innovation, and technology transfer to developing Members, particularly LDCs. The Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE), as the standing forum for dialogue on trade and the environment, must continue to foster Member' increasing engagement. We instruct the CTE to continue revitalizing and improving its work methods and areas of deliberation towards MC14, furthering	We recognize the need for urgent action in addressing the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution and remain committed to harnessing the multilateral trading system to achieve the UN 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals in a manner consistent with the respective needs and concerns of Members at different levels of economic development. We reaffirm the role of the Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE) as a standing forum in the WTO that aims to make international trade and environmental policies mutually supportive and recognize the substantial engagement since MC12 in revitalizing the CTE's role, focus, and working methods. To further support work, we envision that the environmental dimension of sustainable

discussions on the interplay between trade and environmental policies, mutual supportiveness of those policies, and sharing of experiences among Members. Moreover, we instruct the CTE to host Thematic Sessions on the interplay of trade and environment, ensuring inclusivity and transparency and encouraging engagement with international organizations and other external stakeholders. The CTE will work with WTO committees on crosscutting issues on trade and environment and provide a factual report of its work and recommendations to MC14.

development will be given particular consideration in the work of WTO bodies and encourage collaboration between them. We look forward to the regular conduct of the CTE thematic sessions and instruct officials to consider the updating of the CTE Work Program and identify possible trade measures that would most contribute to our common environmental goals by MC14. We reaffirm the importance of supporting developing country Members, especially LDCs, to achieve sustainable development, including further exploring possible steps to increase flows of technology to developing country Members.

We would appreciate receiving your comments **on or before 19 January 2023** through the following email address: [psddivision@gmail.com](mailto:psddivision@gmail.com) and/or [policy@denr.gov.ph](mailto:policy@denr.gov.ph). Enclosed for your reference is the report provided by the PM-WTO, you may also access the same and other related documents using this link: <http://tinyurl.com/5dx6z5t9>.

For your appropriate action, please.

  
CHERYL LOISE T. LEAL

cc: The Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs

To: SFA  
Fr: Geneva WTO  
Re: **Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE) Working Documents**  
Rt: OUMAIER, OIER  
Cc: Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry  
Secretary of the Department of Agriculture  
Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
Secretary of the National Economic Development Authority  
Undersecretary of DTI and Chair of the Technical Committee on WTO Matters  
Dt: 5 January 2024  
Cn: ZWTO-9-2024  
Pgs: 6 including this page

Mission respectfully transmits a copy of the Communication from H.E. José Valencia, Chairperson of the Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE), circulating the following working documents for delegations' consideration:

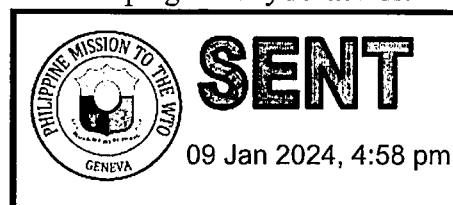
1. Draft paragraph on trade and environment to be included in the 13<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference Final Declaration; and
2. Project of reform actions on the work methods of the CTE.

The second document was based on Members' proposals, particularly from the United Kingdom and Paraguay, regarding the reform of the CTE, and is categorized into: (a) items that can be adopted without formal decisions; (b) items that require formal decision by the CTE; and (c) items that do not require a follow-up.

An informal open-ended meeting of the CTE will be conducted on 12 January 2024 to deliberate on these documents.

Mission's preferred language would be the following:

"We recognize the need for urgent action in addressing the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution and remain committed to harnessing the multilateral trading system to achieve the UN 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals in a manner consistent with the respective needs and concerns of Members at different levels of economic development. We reaffirm the role of the Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE) as a standing forum in the WTO that aims to make international trade and environmental policies mutually supportive and recognize the substantial engagement since MC12 in revitalizing the CTE's role, focus, and working methods. To further support work, we envision that the environmental dimension of sustainable development will be given particular consideration in the work of WTO bodies and encourage collaboration between them. We look forward to the regular conduct of the CTE thematic sessions and instruct officials to consider the updating of the CTE Work Program and identify possible trade measures that would most contribute to our common environmental goals by MC14. We reaffirm the importance of supporting developing country Members, especially LDCs, to achieve sustainable development, including further exploring possible steps to increase flows of technology to developing country Members."



However, Mission is broadly supportive of the CTE Chairperson's draft paragraph for MC13 and the elements are largely consistent with Mission's perspective shared in ZWTO-386-2023, including acknowledgment of Members' "diverse economic levels and needs" and "mutual supportiveness" of trade and environmental policies. Mission would support more ambitious language and would recommend that Ministers instruct officials to "identify possible trade measures that would most contribute to our common environmental goals by MC14."

With respect to reform by doing proposals, Mission fully supports the elements contained in Annex 2 of the Chair's Communication.

For the Department's and TCWM's consideration.



**MANUEL A.J. TEEHANKEE**  
*Ambassador and Permanent Representative*



# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

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**EMAIL**

To:	Delegates to the Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE)	ICN/CTE/10
From:	H.E. Mr José VALENCIA (Ecuador) Chairperson of the CTE	Date: 21/12/2023

## **Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE)**

### **Communication from the Chairperson**

Following what I announced at the CTE's informal open-ended meeting on 11 December 2023, I would like to put forward the following working documents for the delegations' consideration:

1. Draft paragraph on trade and environment to be included in the MC13 Final Declaration.
2. Project of reform actions on the work methods of the CTE.

The first document is based on the content of paragraph 14 of the MC12 Outcome Document. I have sought to incorporate, in a balanced way, the various positions of Members' that I have been able to identify. Space limitations have required the paragraph size to be succinct yet include the most central concepts.

The second document was prepared based on Members' proposals regarding the reform of the working methods of the CTE, particularly the submissions by Paraguay and the UK. The proposals are grouped into three categories: a) those that the CTE can adopt without having a formal decision, b) those that require a decision in a formal meeting, and c) those that do not require a specific follow-up.

The Chair is still working on the assessment of the Thematic Sessions, which also took place on 11 December. For this reason, the document on this matter will be distributed at the beginning of next week.

Finally, I would like to convene an informal open-ended meeting of the CTE on Friday 12 January 2024, at 10:00 a.m. to begin considering the three documents mentioned above. As several other MC13-related negotiation processes will be underway, I will seek to move more quickly in the CTE deliberations.

**ANNEX 1**

**DRAFT PARAGRAPH ON TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT  
TO BE INCLUDED IN THE MC13 FINAL DECLARATION**

We reaffirm the multilateral trading system's crucial role in responding to the global environmental challenges of climate change and related natural disasters, pollution, and biodiversity loss and in achieving the UN 2030 Agenda and its SDGs in so far as they concern WTO mandates and acknowledging Members' diverse economic levels and needs. To support sustainable development, we commit to enhancing cooperation in trade, innovation, and technology transfer to developing Members, particularly LDCs. The Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE), as the standing forum for dialogue on trade and the environment, must continue to foster Members' increasing engagement. We instruct the CTE to continue revitalizing and improving its work methods and areas of deliberation towards MC14, furthering discussions on the interplay between trade and environmental policies, mutual supportiveness of those policies, and sharing of experiences among Members. Moreover, we instruct the CTE to host Thematic Sessions on the interplay of trade and environment, ensuring inclusivity and transparency and encouraging engagement with international organizations and other external stakeholders. The CTE will work with WTO committees on cross-cutting issues on trade and environment and provide a factual report of its work and recommendations to MC14.

**ANNEX 2**

**REFORM OF PROCESSES AND METHODS OF WORK OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND ENVIRONMENT**

Topic	Document	Course of action
<b>1. Proposals for Immediate Implementation by the Committee</b>		
<b>1.1 Meeting scheduling:</b>		
1.1.1 Annual planning	WT/CTE/W/257 WT/CTE/W/252	The Chair and the Secretariat will distribute an annual schedule of the formal meetings at the beginning of each year. This schedule will also include the Thematic Sessions and Environment Week.
1.1.2 Consistent year-to-year meeting planning	WT/CTE/W/252	The three formal CTE meetings will be scheduled as much as possible in the same months each year, i.e., February / March, June, and November.
1.1.3 If the established dates need to be changed circulate an explanation	WT/CTE/W/257	Should the annual schedule of meetings require adjustments due to unexpected circumstances, the Chair and the Secretariat will provide an explanation to the members.
1.1.4 Schedule thematic sessions in the same week as the formal meetings	WT/CTE/W/257	Thematic sessions will be scheduled back-to-back with the CTE formal meetings and will avoid scheduling conflicts with the Environmental Week and other major WTO events.
<b>1.2 Convening Notice:</b>		
1.2.1 Change the title to "Convening Notice" instead of "airgram"	WT/CTE/W/257	The title change will take effect starting with the first CTE meeting in 2024.
1.2.2 Circulation of Convening Notice 30 days in advance	WT/CTE/W/257 WT/CTE/W/252	The Chair and the Secretariat will make all efforts to circulate the Convening Notice well in advance and if possible 30 days ahead of the meeting.
1.2.3 Circulation of revised versions	WT/CTE/W/257	Continue this customary practice.
1.2.4 Circulation only to delegates identified in E-delegate	WT/CTE/W/257	Starting from March 2024, the Convening Notice will be circulated to delegates identified in E-delegate, in addition to its official circulation through documents online.
1.2.5 Information to be included in Convening Notice	WT/CTE/W/257	Starting from the first 2024 CTE meeting, the Convening Notice will contain information on logistical arrangements, conduct of the meeting including available hyperlinks, and the proposed agenda.

1.2.6 Continue to be issued under the existing document series	WT/CTE/W/257	Continue issuing under the new title.
1.2.7 Format in line with other WTO documents	WT/CTE/W/257	The format of the Convening Notice will continue following the standard format used in other WTO documents.
<b>1.3 Draft annotated agenda:</b>		
1.3.1 Circulate a more detailed draft annotated agenda	WT/CTE/W/252	Starting from the first meeting in 2024, delegations are encouraged to provide more details to be included in the annotated agenda.
<b>1.4 Follow-up note by the Chair:</b>		
1.4.1 Publish follow-up note summarizing each meeting	WT/CTE/W/257	After each formal and informal CTE meeting, the Chair will issue a follow-up note summarizing the understandings and next steps agreed in the meeting.
<b>1.5 Digital tools:</b>		
1.5.1 Use of E-delegate	WT/CTE/W/257	Starting from March 2024, the E-delegate tool will be fully implemented.
1.5.2 Use of E-agenda	WT/CTE/W/257 WT/CTE/W/252	Starting with the first formal CTE meeting in 2024, the E-agenda tool will be implemented on a trial basis. The Chair will inform members upon the conclusion of the trial, at which point the E-agenda will be fully operational.
1.5.3 Circulation of minutes within 3 weeks of the meeting	WT/CTE/W/257	The WTO Secretariat is encouraged to publish the minutes if possible before the circulation of the Convening Notice for the next meeting.

## 2. Proposals for adoption by the Committee

<b>2.1 Convening Notice:</b>		
2.1.1 Agenda closes 15 days before	WT/CTE/W/257	At its first meeting in 2024, the CTE will formally decide that the Convening Notice of future meetings will be closed 15 days before each meeting. (Despite this formal decision awaiting CTE's approval, this practice will be implemented starting January 2024.)

## 3. No specific follow-up required

<b>3.1 Meetings:</b>		
3.1.1 Coordination of schedule with Joint Initiatives	WT/CTE/W/257	Where possible, the Chair and the Secretariat will coordinate the Committee's meeting schedule with the schedule of other trade and environment-related meetings in the WTO.