



MEMORANDUM

FOR : The Directors
Biodiversity Management Bureau
Environmental Management Bureau
Forest Management Bureau

FROM : The OIC Director
Policy and Planning Service

SUBJECT : REQUEST FOR CONCURRENCE ON THE FINAL PTFC
RESOLUTIONS ON THE CREATION OF THE NTRS-TWG AND
PTFC SHORT TERM ACTIVITIES

DATE : 31 MAY 2024

This has reference to the electronic mail dated 29 May 2024 from the Bureau of Customs (BOC), requesting the concurrence and/or further comments from the Philippine Trade Facilitation Committee (PTFC) members, including the DENR, on the following PTFC Resolutions:

Resolution Number	Resolution Title	Brief description/ DENR Involvement
Resolution No. 01 - 2024 Series of 2024 (<i>Annex A</i>)	Short-Term Activities, Timelines, Responsible Agencies, and Performance Indicators of the Key Reform Areas of the Philippine Trade Facilitation Committee	<p>The PTFC Roadmap 2022-2028 is based on six (6) identified Key Reform Areas (KRAs) in pursuit of the PTFC's vision towards achieving an inclusive and sustainable trade facilitation response, while fostering better cross-border trade standards and procedure.</p> <p>Resolution adopting the short term-activities indicated in the said roadmap (<i>attached as Annex C</i>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The DENR - Wildlife Traffic Monitoring Units was included as one of the Responsible Agency under the Item 4. Initiating Exchange and Sharing of Information and Knowledge

		on joint controls through MOU between concerned agencies as one of the outcomes of the updated PTFC roadmap matrix of short-term activities.
Resolution No. 02 - 2024 Series of 2024 (Annex B)	Creation of the National Time Release Study – Technical Working Group (NTRS-TWG)	The Resolution aims to streamline and improve customs procedures. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both EMB and BMB were included as permanent members while FMB is being proposed as an ad hoc member.

In this regard, please be informed that the BOC is requesting the Department's concurrence on the above-mentioned resolution adopted in principle during the 7th PTFC Meeting. We would appreciate receiving your responses **on or before 3 June 2024** through the following email addresses: policy@denr.gov.ph and/or psddivision@gmail.com. Should we receive no responses on the said deadline, please allow us to convey to the BOC, the Department's concurrence and/or confirmation on the two resolutions.

Likewise, please be informed that the said confirmation will signal the drafting of the Terms of Reference which will be used in all the future activities of the NTRS-TWG. In this regard, we would like to request your **designated focal person/s for the NTRS – TWG** following this format (*Name, Designation, Office, Email, and Contact number (Viber-activated)*).

For your information and consideration, please..


CHERYL LOISE T. LEAL, EnP.

cc: The Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs
The Assistant Secretary for Policy, Planning and Foreign – Assisted and Special Projects
The Assistant Secretary for International Affairs



PSD Document <psddivision@gmail.com>

Fwd: PTFC Resolutions on the Creation of the NTRS-TWG and PTFC Short Term Activities

1 message

Llarina Mojica <llarinamojica@gmail.com>
To: Electronic Document <psddivision@gmail.com>

Wed, May 29, 2024 at 2:52 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Andrea M. Lim** <Andrea.Lim@customs.gov.ph>

Date: Wed, 29 May 2024, 11:46 am

Subject: PTFC Resolutions on the Creation of the NTRS-TWG and PTFC Short Term Activities

To: mampatin@dof.gov.ph <mampatin@dof.gov.ph>, vivian.santos@peza.gov.ph <vivian.santos@peza.gov.ph>, Ricardo Romero <ricardo.romero@dotr.gov.ph>, ShairaSteffanyGranada@dti.gov.ph <ShairaSteffanyGranada@dti.gov.ph>, isicat@bsp.gov.ph <isicat@bsp.gov.ph>, Czarieena Pauline C. Antonio <ANTONIOCC@bsp.gov.ph>, baganapin@neda.gov.ph <baganapin@neda.gov.ph>, Leilani Lakandili <llakandili@dof.gov.ph>, ebmacasadia@neda.gov.ph <ebmacasadia@neda.gov.ph>, mapaderon@mail.tariffcommission.gov.ph <mapaderon@mail.tariffcommission.gov.ph>, Irma L. Olavario <ilolavario@mail.tariffcommission.gov.ph>, Norma Serra Arpafo <NormaArpafo@dti.gov.ph>, Marietta B. Trimpe <MariettaTrimpe@dti.gov.ph>, aabarcelon@fda.gov.ph <aabarcelon@fda.gov.ph>, mbramilo.daamas@gmail.com <mbramilo.daamas@gmail.com>, mdlabadan@neda.gov.ph <mdlabadan@neda.gov.ph>, Mimi Tolentino <mimitolentino13@gmail.com>, Armando Q. Mercado, Jr. <armandomercado@dti.gov.ph>, Sheila Castaloni <scastaloni@dof.gov.ph>, kpcimperial@fda.gov.ph <kpcimperial@fda.gov.ph>, Merlita Pedron B. <mbpedron@fda.gov.ph>, Jodeth Nina R. Yeung <YeungJR@bsp.gov.ph>, llarinamojica@gmail.com <llarinamojica@gmail.com>, Hazel Joy M. Alcaraz <AlcarazHM@bsp.gov.ph>, ramirezfm@bsp.gov.ph <ramirezfm@bsp.gov.ph>, Office OUMAIER <oumaier@dfa.gov.ph>, IEPN OIER <iepn.oier@dfa.gov.ph>, fatima.muallam@dfa.gov.ph <fatima.muallam@dfa.gov.ph>

Cc: Philippines - Genilyn D. Minardo <genilyn.minardo@customs.gov.ph>

Dear PTFC Members:

We respectfully transmit the herein FINAL PTFC Resolutions on the (1) Creation of the NTRS-TWG and (2) PTFC Short Term Activities, with all the comments incorporated therein. The same have been adopted during the 1st quarterly PTFC meeting held last 25 March 2024. In this regard, may we solicit your CONFIRMATION and/or NO OBEJCTION by replying to this e-mail and we will take note of the same in the printed version of the Resolutions.

Your confirmation is likewise material for the commencement of the drafting of the Terms of Reference to be used all the future activities of the NTRS-TWG.

If the Secretariat do not receive any comments and email confirmation from the agencies by **June 5, 2024**, the attached versions shall be considered as final and accepted by the concerned member-agency.

Thank you.

*Ehya***ANDREA M. LIM, LCB, MCA**

Customs Operations Officer IV

Bureau of Customs

2 attachments **Annex B_PTFC Reso 2-2024_BITR comments (ao 17 May 2024)_V3.0.docx**
37K

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

PHILIPPINE TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEE
Resolution No. 01-2024
Series of 2024

**SHORT-TERM ACTIVITIES, TIMELINES, RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES, AND
PERFORMANCE INDICATORS OF THE KEY REFORM AREAS OF THE PHILIPPINE
TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEE**

WHEREAS, Executive Order (EO) No. 136, series of 2021, provides for the creation of the Philippine Trade Facilitation Committee (PTFC) which shall streamline and improve customs procedures and facilitate the implementation of rational, efficient, and simple customs rules that will reduce the cost of trade transactions, and enable micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) to participate more actively in international trade;

WHEREAS, under Section 2.3 of EO No. 136, the PTFC can call on the assistance of and coordinate with relevant government agencies and stakeholders on various trade and trade-related concerns covered by the WTO-TFA and other trade facilitation commitments;

WHEREAS, the entry into force of the World Trade Organization – Agreement on Trade Facilitation (WTO-TFA) on 22 February 2017, which the Philippines ratified on 27 October 2016, aims to expedite the movement, release and clearance of goods as well as sets out measures for the effective cooperation between customs and other appropriate authorities on trade facilitation and customs compliance issues;

WHEREAS, to implement the mandates of the PTFC, its member-agencies developed this Roadmap covering a six-year period from 2022-2028, based on six (6) identified Key Reform Areas (KRAs) in pursuit of the PTFC's vision towards achieving an inclusive and sustainable trade facilitation response, while fostering better cross-border trade standards and procedure;

WHEREAS, through the implementation of the measures set out in the PTFC Roadmap, by 2028 the PTFC aims to achieve: (i) full implementation of the six (6) KRAs; (ii) increase its trade facilitation score to at least 90% in the UN Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation; and (iii) achieve full paperless transactions for export and import of essential goods;

WHEREAS, on 26 January 2024, during a Special Session attended by the representatives of the member-agencies of the Technical Working Groups under the PTFC, the short-term activities to achieve the outcome of the KRAs were discussed and the timelines, responsible agencies, and performance indicators have been identified;

WHEREAS, at the 7th PTFC meeting held on 25 March 2024, the PTFC provisionally approved the same subject to the incorporation of the comments of the member-agencies;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to approve the short-term activities, timelines, responsible agencies, and performance indicators of the KRAs of the PTFC as indicated in the herein attached matrix of activities (Annex "A") and made an integral part of this Resolution;

BE IT RESOLVED, FINALLY, that the matrix of the activities shall be incorporated in the Reform Tracker facilitated by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and other platforms as may be utilized by the PTFC to monitor the progress and compliance of the Philippines to the WTO-TFA.

Adopted this **25th** day of **March**, 2024.

UNDERSECRETARY ALLAN B. GEPTY
Alternate Representative to the Co-Chairperson,
PTFC
Department of Trade and Industry

UNDERSECRETARY DAKILA ELTEEN M. NAPAO
Principal Representative of the Chairperson,
PTFC
Department of Finance

COMMISSIONER BIENVENIDO Y. RUBIO
Vice Chairperson, PTFC
Bureau of Customs

UNDERSECRETARY ZAMZAMIN AMPATUAN
Member, PTFC
Department of Agriculture

ASST. SECRETARY PAUL VINCENT L. UY
Member, PTFC
Department of Foreign Affairs

UNDERSECRETARY ROSEMARIE G. EDILLON
Member, PTFC
National Economic and Development Authority

UNDERSECRETARY JONAS R. LEONES
Member, PTFC
Department of Environment and Natural Resources

UNDERSECRETARY ELMER FRANCISCO U. SARMIENTO
Member, PTFC
Department of Transportation

COMMISSIONER MARISSA MARICOSA A. PADERON
Member, PTFC
Tariff Commission

DEPUTY GOVERNOR FRANCIS O. DAKILA JR.
DIRECTOR GENERAL TERESO O. PANGA
Member, PTFC
Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Philippine Economic Zone Authority

OIC-DIRECTOR MARIE SHERYLYN D. AQUIA
DIRECTOR GENERAL SAMUEL ZACATE, MD
Member, PTFC
Bureau of International Trade Relations
Food and Drug Administration

DIRECTOR MARIA GUIZA B. LIM
Member, PTFC
Bureau of Import Services

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

PHILIPPINE TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEE
Resolution No. 02-2024
Series of 2024

**CREATION OF THE NATIONAL TIME RELEASE STUDY - TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP (NTRS-TWG)**

WHEREAS, Executive Order (EO) No. 136, series of 2021, provides for the creation of the Philippine Trade Facilitation Committee (PTFC) which shall streamline and improve customs procedures and facilitate the implementation of rational, efficient, and simple customs rules that will reduce the cost of trade transactions, and enable micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) to participate more actively in international trade;

WHEREAS, under Article 7.6 of the World Trade Organization-Agreement on Trade Facilitation (WTO-TFA), "Members are encouraged to measure and publish their average release time of goods periodically and in a consistent manner, using tools such as, inter alia, the Time Release Study of the World Customs Organization (WCO);"

WHEREAS, under Section 2.3 of EO No. 136, the PTFC can call on the assistance of and coordinate with relevant government agencies and stakeholders on various trade and trade-related concerns covered by the WTO-TFA and other trade facilitation commitments;

WHEREAS, the PTFC, in compliance with the above provision of the WTO-TFA, has committed to conduct a National Time Release Study (NTRS) to measure the clearance and release time of goods;

WHEREAS, the PTFC, through a meeting of its technical working groups (TWGs), has recommended the creation of a new TWG to conduct and supervise the NTRS;

WHEREAS, the TWG-NTRS shall be composed of permanent members with significant involvement in the clearance and release of imported and exported goods, and ad hoc members who shall be engaged on a per need basis.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to approve the creation of the Technical Working Group on National Time Release Study, composed of the following government agencies and private sectors:

NTRS TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (NTRS-TWG)	
Head	Bureau of Customs (BOC-DOF)
Members	PERMANENT MEMBERS GOVERNMENT AGENCY Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI-DA) Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR-DA) Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR-DOF) Bureau of Philippine Standards (BPS-DTI) Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI-DA) Bureau of Quarantine (BOQ-DOH) Environmental Management Bureau (EMB-DENR)

	<p>Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA-DA) Food and Drug Administration (FDA-DOH) National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS-DA) National Telecommunications Commission (NTC-DICT) Philippine Ports Authority (PPA-DOTr) Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA-DA) Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB-DENR)</p> <p>PRIVATE SECTOR Association of International Shipping Lines (AISL) Chamber of Customs Brokers Incorporated (CCBI) International Container Terminal Services Inc. (ICTSI) Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) Philippine Exporters Confederation, Inc. (PHILEXPORT) Confederation of Truckers Association of the Philippines (CTAP)</p> <p>AD HOC MEMBERS</p> <p>GOVERNMENT AGENCY Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP-DOTr) Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB-PDEA) Export Marketing Bureau (EMB-DTI) Fair Trade Enforcement Bureau (FTEB-DTI) Bureau of Import Services (BIS-DTI) Firearms and Explosives Office (FEO-PNP) Forest Management Bureau (FMB-DENR) Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA-DOTr) National Tobacco Administration (NTA-DA) Optical Media Board (OMB) Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA-DTI) Strategic Trade Management Office (STMO-DTI)</p> <p>PRIVATE SECTOR Bankers Association of the Philippines (BAP)</p>
Secretariat	BOC TRS-TWG

BE IT RESOLVED, FURTHER, that the TWG-NTRS shall perform the following functions:

- a. Plan, conduct, monitor and evaluate the result of the NTRS;
- b. Coordinate with concerned government agencies on the conduct of the NTRS;
- c. Work in close collaboration with the WCO TRS technical staff and accredited TRS experts nominated by the WCO;
- d. Determine and assess the performance of the government agencies concerned based on the TRS of import and export processes;
- e. Establish and recommend a baseline for trade facilitation performance measurement;
- f. Identify bottlenecks in the supply chain and recommend possible corrective measures to create a conducive environment for the seamless flow of goods, and opportunities for trade facilitation enhancements;

- g. Formulate and recommend continuing the TRS Plan, including possible priority processes and goods;
- h. Design and participate in capacity-building activities for the members of the TWG-NTRS;
- i. Submit its plans, recommendations, assessments, and/or evaluation of the NTRS to the PTFC and provide regular updates on the same; and
- j. Perform other functions related to the conduct of NTRS as may be assigned.

BE IT RESOLVED, FINALLY, that the **NTRS-TWG** be created to conduct a National Time Release Study on the release and clearance of imported and exported goods.

Adopted this **25th** day of **March**, 2024.

UNDERSECRETARY ALLAN B. GEPTY
 Alternate Representative to the Co-Chairperson,
 PTFC
 Department of Trade and Industry

ASSISTANT SECRETARY DAKILA ELTEEN M. NAPAO
 Principal Representative of the Chairperson,
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Philippine Economic Zone Authority

DIRECTOR GENERAL SAMUEL ZACATE, MD
Member, PTFC
Food and Drug Administration

DIRECTOR MARIA GUIZA B. LIM
Member, PTFC
Bureau of Import Services

PHILIPPINE TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEE

THE PHILIPPINE TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEE (PTFC) ROADMAP 2022 – 2028

SHORT-TERM ACTIVITIES

Note: To address the difficulty of establishing baselines and targets, activities were divided into short-term and medium term. Short term activities will cover the priority activities to be executed from 1 to 2 years for which baselines and targets are provided.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Outcome	Activities	Proposed Timelines	Responsible Agency	Performance Indicator
1. Public Consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invitation to stakeholders • Prepare guidelines on public consultation 	1 st Quarter of 2024	BOC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PTFC Resolution providing for the creation of a Joint Memorandum on general guidelines on the conduct of public consultations.
2. Hotline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft policy on hotline • Inventory of existing hotlines • Prepare a directory of all hotline 	2 nd Quarter of 2024	DOF BOC DTI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PTFC Resolution consolidating all hotlines of the relevant agencies into one single document, with a proviso to update the hotlines indicated therein should there be any changes. <p>The PTFC Resolution shall be published in all the respective websites of the member-agencies.</p>
3. Multi Sectoral Advisory Council (MSAC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of Members of PTFC-MSAC • Create PTFC MSAC • Conduct of meetings (Online) • Technical assistance on best practice sharing from private sectors 	2 nd Quarter 2024	DTI DOF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmation of identified agencies/private sector organizations as part of the MSAC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry ▪ Philippine Exporters Confederation Inc. ▪ Export Development Council ▪ Chamber of Customs Brokers Inc. ▪ Federation of Philippine Industries • PTFC Resolution on the composition,



PHILIPPINE TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEE

Outcome	Activities	Proposed Timelines	Responsible Agency	Performance Indicator
				chairmanship, roles and responsibilities, voting privileges, conduct of meetings, establishment of secretariat, and other reporting requirements of the MSAC. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal launch of the PTFC MSAC

INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION

Outcome	Activities	Proposed Timelines	Responsible Agency	Performance Indicator
4. Initiating Exchange and Sharing of Information and Knowledge on joint controls through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between concerned agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft MOU Identify the types of information for sharing 	2 nd Quarter 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BOC STMO Other Concerned Border Agencies (Immigration, Quarantine) DA-regulatory agencies (NMIS, BPI, BFAR, BAI) FDA DTI-BPS DENR-Wildlife Traffic Monitoring Units 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint MOU which covers the composition of members, roles, responsibilities, and information to be shared
5. Issuance of a Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) to institutionalize PNTR	Identify agencies PTFC to issue a directive to conduct an inter-agency meeting and discuss possible mechanisms to strengthen updating and continued operations of the PNTR.	1 st Quarter 2024	DTI-BIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> JMC which requires member-agencies to regularly/periodically provide updates on the contents to be posted on the PNTR, especially when there are changes on the rules, regulations and policies, among others, of the relevant agencies.
6. PTFC Participation		1 st Quarter 2024	PTFC Secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuous updating of the PTFC Directory



PHILIPPINE TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEE

Submission of permanent
representatives to PTFC TWGs

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PHILIPPINE TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEE

TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE

Outcome	Activities	Proposed Timelines	Responsible Agency	Performance Indicator
7. Full operationalization of National Single Window (NSW) designed to execute end-to-end processing of import and export transactions from lodgment to clearance	PTFC to issue a directive for the Compliance Monitoring Technical Working Group (CMTWG) to conduct an assessment study on the current situation of the NSW (TRADENET) System to identify bottlenecks and make recommendations to the PTFC Secretariat.	N/A	PTFC CMTWG DOF	<i>By virtue of the agreement during the 7th PTFC Meeting held on 25 March 2024, all members agreed that the short-term activity indicated herein for Technology Infrastructure shall be deferred until the budget and logistical concerns on the operationalization of the NSW have been resolved.</i>

LEGAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Outcome	Activities	Proposed Timelines	Responsible Agency	Performance Indicator
8. Streamlined trade procedures and reduced processing time for permit issuance and clearance time, and Harmonized rules and conditions for securing regulatory permits / clearances	<p>PTFC to consolidate all trade procedures and policies.</p> <p>To initiate discussions with TRGAs on the Integrated Risk Management</p>	4 th Quarter 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMTWG to simplify the procedures • Trade Policy Review Technical Working Group (TPRTWG) for the harmonization and review of procedures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PTFC Resolution consolidating the trade-related procedures and processes included in the respective Citizen's Charter of the member agencies. • Regulations, procedures and processes uploaded in the PNTR • PTFC Resolution directing the CMTWG and TPRTWG to harmonize and simplify clearance processes, identify duplicate requirements, and recommend the appropriate issuance to implement the proposed revisions to existing laws. • Discussion with ARTA and DICT during TWG meetings



PHILIPPINE TRADE FACILITATION COMMITTEE

9. Institutionalized Time Release Study (TRS)	PTFC to issue directive to conduct an interagency meeting between BOC and border agencies and discuss consolidation of TRS	1st Quarter of 2024	BOC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTFC Resolution adopting the National Time Release Study (NTRS) and the Technical Working Group on NTRS (TWG-NTRS)
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EMERGENCY RESPONSE MEASURE

Outcome	Activities	Proposed Timelines	Responsible Agency	Performance Indicators
10. Identification of essential commodities (Database)	Creation of a database of essential commodities	3 rd to 4 th Quarter of 2024	DA DTI FDA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification of essential commodities/goods based on international standards (WHO and FAO) for expedited clearance Publication of the list of essential commodities/goods in the PTFC website/PNTR/TradeNet
11. Identification of critical areas for distribution of essential commodities				Outline of the methods of distribution to critical areas, potentially in coordination with LGUs
12. Streamline the movement of essential goods				Conduct of test runs on the implementation of the streamlined procedures, including the distribution of essential commodities in critical areas

SUPPORT TO MSMEs

Outcome	Activities	Proposed Timelines	Responsible Agency	Performance Indicators
13. Capacity building in trade regulations and procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate with DTI and other trade promotions agencies to get the directory of MSMEs 	1 st Quarter of 2024	DTI DA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification of capacity-building programs and assistance to MSMEs coordinated with DTI and other concerned agencies
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct needs assessment survey for capacity building 	2 nd Quarter of 2024		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design capacity building activities based on the assessment 	3 rd Quarter of 2024		

