



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

KAGAWARAN NG KAPALIGIRAN AT LIKAS NA YAMAN



**VERY URGENT
MEMORANDUM**

TO : **The Assistant Secretary**
International Affairs
Director, Biodiversity Management Bureau
in concurrent capacity

The Directors
Environmental Management Bureau
Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects Service
Climate Change Service

The OIC Director
Mines and Geosciences Bureau

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

SUBJECT : **INVITATION TO AN INTER-AGENCY MEETING RELATIVE
TO THE CONDUCT OF A NATIONAL CONSULTATION
PROGRAM FOR THE THIRD UNITED NATIONS OCEAN
CONFERENCE (UNOC3)**

DATE : **AUG 05 2024**

Relative to the Memorandum¹ dated 23 July 2024, forwarded herewith is a letter dated 1 August 2024 from Assistant Secretary Marshall Louis M. Alferez of the Department of Foreign Affairs – Maritime and Ocean Affairs Office (DFA-MOAO), inviting representative/s from this Department to an inter-agency meeting scheduled on **9 August 2024 at 10:00 a.m.** at the **MOAO Conference Room, 2nd Floor, DFA in Pasay City** to discuss the following relative to the above subject:

1. Inputs on the draft Concept Note; and
2. Recommended Resource Persons and the list of possible participants

In view thereof, we kindly request your office to provide us with the name(s) of your representative(s) and attend the aforesaid meeting, to be submitted **on or before 7 August 2024** for timely transmittal to the DFA.

On the same note, we would like to follow up on your inputs and recommendations on the National Consultation Program for UNOC3. The same may still be submitted and directly coordinated with the **Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects Service (FASPS)** for their proper review, evaluation, and consolidation.

For your information and appropriate action.


ATTY. JONAS R. LEONES

¹ Copy of Memorandum dated 23 July 2024 requesting inputs and recommendations relative to the conduct of a National Consultation Program for the Third United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3)



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

KAGAWARAN NG KAPALIGIRAN AT LIKAS NA YAMAN



**EXTREMELY URGENT
MEMORANDUM**

TO : **The Assistant Secretary**
International Affairs
Director, Biodiversity Management Bureau
in concurrent capacity

The Directors
Environmental Management Bureau
Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects Service
Climate Change Service

The OIC Director
Mines and Geosciences Bureau

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

SUBJECT : **REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE FOR THE CONDUCT OF A
NATIONAL CONSULTATION PROGRAM FOR THE THIRD
UNITED NATIONS OCEAN CONFERENCE (UNOC3)**

DATE : JUL 23 2024

This refers to the letter dated 18 July 2024 from Assistant Secretary Marshall Louis M. Alferez of the Department of Foreign Affairs – Maritime and Ocean Affairs Office (DFA-MOAO), regarding their request for assistance on the following, relative to the conduct of a National Consultation Program in November 2024, in preparation for the Third United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3), scheduled for June 2025, to be held in Nice, France:

1. Inputs on the draft Concept Note;
2. Recommended Possible Resource Persons;
3. Recommended list of possible participants from:
 - a. Civil Society Organizations;
 - b. Academia and Research Institutions;
 - c. Private Sector Representatives;
 - d. Indigenous and Local Communities; and
 - e. Youth Groups

The said National Consultation Program aims to bring together a diverse range of stakeholders to discuss key ocean issues, identify national priorities, and develop recommendations to inform the Philippine Participation at the UNOC3, and beyond, towards positive action in the national effort to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG14).

In this regard, we request your office to provide **inputs and recommendations** relative to the conduct of the said Program. The same may be submitted and directly coordinated with the **Foreign-Assisted and Special Projects Service (FASPS)** for their proper review, evaluation, and consolidation **on or before 25 July 2024**.

For your information and appropriate action.


ATTY. JONAS R. LEONES



**DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
KAGAWARAN NG UGNAYANG PANLABAS**



MARITIME AND OCEAN AFFAIRS OFFICE

MOAO/DIV2/MLA/2024/08/01-6

Urgent

1 August 2024

Dear **Colleagues**,

This is further to our letter dated 18 July 2024 (copy attached) requesting for inputs from your agencies on the proposed Philippine National Stakeholders Consultation in Preparation for the 2025 United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3).

We wish to express our appreciation for the inputs and suggestions on the Consultation from the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Palawan Council for Sustainable Development (PCSD), and Dr. Maria Rowena R. Romana-Eguia, and would welcome further inputs from the other agencies.

To discuss the inputs on the draft concept note, recommended possible resource persons, and recommended list of possible participants, we respectfully invite your agencies to send a representative to an inter-agency meeting on Friday, 9 August 2024 at 10:00 AM at the MOAO Conference Room, 2nd floor, Department of Foreign Affairs.

We would highly appreciate receiving confirmation of your representatives by **07 August 2024** through email: moao.div2@dfa.gov.ph.

With my best regards,

Yours sincerely,

For the Secretary of Foreign Affairs:

MARSHALL LOUIS M. ALFEREZ
Assistant Secretary

[DISTRIBUTION LIST FOLLOWS]

Attachments: a/s



Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs <ouppia@denr.gov.ph>

[URGENT] MOAO/DIV2/MLA/2024/08/01-6 Letter to agencies re: request for inputs on proposed Philippine National Stakeholders Consultation in Preparation for the 2025 United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3)

MOAO DFA <moao@dfa.gov.ph>

Thu, Aug 1, 2024 at 8:42 PM

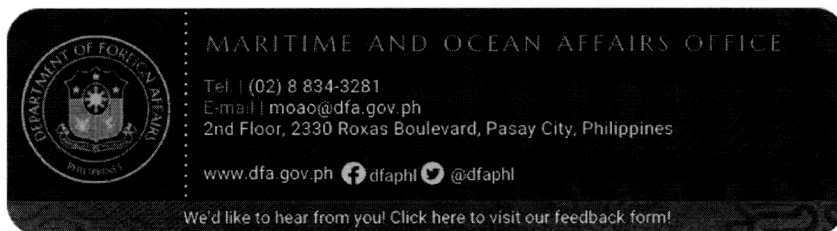
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Good day!

Kindly acknowledge DFA-MOAO's letter on the above-mentioned subject.

Thank you and best regards,
Lloyd Free B. Barrieses



3 attachments

MOAO-DIV2-MLA-2024-08-01-6.pdf
401K

[attachment UNOC3 L-1Aug-DistList-National] MOAO-DIV2-MLA-2024-07-19-6.pdf
344K

[attachment UNOC3 L-1Aug-DistList-National] Concept note Philippine Stakeholders Consultation UNOC3.docx
20K

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DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
KAGAWARAN NG UGNAYANG PANLABAS



MOAO/DIV2/MLA/2024/07/19-6

MARITIME AND OCEAN AFFAIRS OFFICE

18 July 2024

Dear Colleagues,

This refers to the Third United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development (UNOC3), which will be held in Nice, France in June 2025.¹

In preparation for the UNOC3, the DFA (MOAO) is considering conducting a national consultation program in November 2024. This national consultation program aims to bring together a diverse range of stakeholders to discuss key ocean issues, identify national priorities, and develop recommendations to inform the Philippine participation at UNOC3, and beyond, towards positive action in the national effort to achieve SDG 14. Attached is a copy of the preliminary draft of the concept note. The preliminary draft remains a flexible framework and can be adapted to accommodate specific needs and priorities.

In this regard, we would appreciate your assistance to provide the following:

- a) inputs on the draft concept note;
- b) recommended possible resource persons;
- c) recommended list of possible participants from:
 - i) Civil society organizations
 - ii) Academia and research institutions
 - iii) Private sector representatives (e.g., fisheries, shipping, tourism)
 - iv) Indigenous and local communities
 - v) Youth groups

We would highly appreciate receiving your feedback by **Friday, 26 July 2024** through email at moao@dfa.gov.ph.

With my best regards,

Yours sincerely,

For the Secretary of Foreign Affairs:

MARSHALL LOUIS M. ALFEREZ
Assistant Secretary

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Attachments: a/s

¹ Information on the UNOC3 is available at: <https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/ocean2025>.

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Concept Note

Philippine National Stakeholders Consultation in Preparation for the 2025 United Nations Oceans Conference (UNOC3)

Date: TBC (November 2024)

Venue: TBC (Bohol, PHL)

Introduction

The Philippines, as an archipelagic State, recognizes the vital role that a healthy ocean and seas play in our environment, economy, and national security. Indeed, the Philippines remains committed to achieving SDG 14, which is to “conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”.

Achieving SDG 14 is a complex challenge that requires ongoing efforts from governments, businesses, civil society organizations, and individuals worldwide.

The upcoming 2025 United Nations Oceans Conference (UNOC3) in Nice, France from 9 to 13 June 2025 is an opportune time for governments and other stakeholders to convene and work towards accelerating action to achieve SDG 14.

Therefore, in preparation for the upcoming UNOC3, this national consultation program aims to bring together a diverse range of stakeholders to discuss key ocean issues, identify national priorities, and develop recommendations to inform the Philippine participation at the conference, and beyond, towards positive action in the national effort to achieve SDG 14.

Expected Outcomes

- Strengthened multi-stakeholder collaboration on SDG 14;
- Identification of key national ocean priorities, challenges, and recommended actions [Report and Action Plan to inform PHL participation in UNOC3]; and
- Increased awareness and national ownership of efforts to achieve SDG 14, including participation in the UNOC3;

Participation

The consultation will involve a diverse range of stakeholders, including:

- Government representatives from relevant agencies
- Civil society organizations (environment)
- Academia and research institutions
- Private sector representatives (e.g., fisheries, shipping, tourism)
- Indigenous and local communities
- Youth groups

Post-Consultation

- A comprehensive report with an action plan summarizing the consultation findings and recommendations will be prepared.
- The report will be disseminated to stakeholders and inform the Philippine government's position and advocacies at the UN Oceans Conference 2025.
- A mechanism will be established to ensure continued multi-stakeholder collaboration on ocean issues beyond the conference.

Program

Day 1: Setting the Agenda

- **Opening Remarks**
 - Welcome Address by the DFA MOAO Assistant Secretary for Maritime and Ocean Affairs
 - Keynote Address by the Secretary of Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo
 - Remarks by Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the U.N. Antonio M. Lagdameo
 - Remarks by other Officials (ex. SENR, SLL, French Embassy official, etc.)
- **Introduction on the SDG 14 and the UN Oceans Conference**
 - Presentation by [NYPM] on SDG 14 and general background on UNOC
 - Presentation by [French official] on the specific the themes and objectives of the UNOC 3
- **The Philippine Ocean Context**
 - Presentation by [NEDA and PSA] on status of Philippine achievement of SDG 14;
 - Presentations by relevant government agencies on the state of the ocean with respect to their areas of expertise (e.g., DENR, DA-BFAR, etc.)
 - Panel Discussion: Key Ocean Challenges and Opportunities in the Philippines
 - Representatives from government, civil society, academia, and the private sector

Day 2-3: Discussions

- intergovernmentally agreed declaration
- Ocean Action Panels
- voluntary commitments for the implementation of SDG14

Ocean Action Panels (as of 11 July 2024)

- a. Fostering sustainable fisheries management including supporting small-scale fishers.
- b. Conserving, sustainably managing and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems including deep-sea ecosystems.
- c. Promoting and supporting all forms of cooperation, especially at the regional and

subregional level.

d. Preventing and significantly reducing marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities.

e. Leveraging ocean, climate and biodiversity interlinkages.

f. Advancing sustainable ocean-based economies, sustainable maritime transport and coastal community resilience leaving no one behind.

g. Promoting the role of sustainable food from the ocean for poverty eradication and food security.

h. Increasing ocean-related scientific cooperation, knowledge, capacity building, marine technology and education to strengthen the science-policy interface for ocean health.

i. Enhancing the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the UNCLOS.

j. Mobilizing finance for ocean actions in the support of SDG14.

Day 4: Developing the Report and Action Plan

- **Synthesis Report:** Presentation on key findings and recommendations from the discussions
- **Stakeholder Roundtable Discussion:** Refining the national priorities, positions and recommendations for the 2025 UN Oceans Conference
- **Reporting Back and Next Steps**
 - Presentation of the draft/preliminary synthesized report and action plan
 - Closing Remarks by the DFA MOAO Assistant Secretary

(END)