



## MEMORANDUM

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

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

SUBJECT : **WTO JOINT STATEMENT INITIATIVE ON INVESTMENT FACILITATION FOR DEVELOPMENT (JSI-IFD) NEEDS ASSESSMENT CONSULTATION ON 07- 08 FEBRUARY 2024 AT THE HOLIDAY INN, MAKATI**

DATE : 29 JAN 2024

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This is in reference to the invitation from the Board of Investment regarding the **WTO Joint Statement Initiative on Investment Facilitation for Development (JSI-IFD) Needs Assessment Consultation on 07-08 February 2024 from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the Holiday Inn, Makati.**

## BACKGROUND

The WTO JSI-IFD seeks to improve the transparency and predictability of investment measures, streamline and speed up administrative procedures and requirements, and enhance international cooperation, information sharing, exchange of best practices, and relations with relevant stakeholders, including dispute prevention.

The conclusion of the WTO JSI – IFD negotiations in July 2023 has created an expectation for Member States to sign into the implementation of the Agreement when in place. In this context, it would be relevant for Member States to undertake a needs assessment, based on guidelines developed by the WTO and related development partners, and work on the implementation of the Agreement.

To identify gaps in the domestic framework and to understand where the Philippines sits in terms of its compliance capability with the future coming into force of the IFD, the BOI in partnership with the International Trade Centre will be conducting a two-day consultation meeting.

The consultation meeting seeks to bring together all relevant stakeholders to work through WTO's Guidelines on the IFD Agreement that will feed into the analysis of the current investment facilitation framework in the Philippines, gaps/challenges faced, and measures to be undertaken.

## **ACTION REQUESTED**

Please be informed that the BOI has only provided **four (4) slots** per agency. In this regard, considering the technicality the consultation requires, particularly on identifying DENR permits, processes, and information related to investment, we would like to **request one (1) official representative from your Office** to join the two-day consultation meeting with BOI on February 7-8, 2024. Participants are requested to confirm their participation through the registration link: <http://tinyurl.com/InterAgencyConsultation> **on or before 31 January 2024.**

The above-mentioned Offices are also requested to provide recommendations and after-activity report to the Office of Undersecretary for Policy, Planning and International Affairs, copy furnished the Policy and Planning Service. For reference, please find the enclosed official letter and agenda of the meeting, while the latest copy of the IFD text and Needs Assessment Guide provided by the WTO can be accessed using this link: <http://tinyurl.com/3m6k7sut>.

For your preferential action, please.

  
CHERYL LOISE T. LEAL

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



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

## WTO Investment Facilitation for Development Needs Assessment Consultation on 07-08 Feb 2024

Patricia Dominique D. Tablizo <pdtablizo@boi.gov.ph> Thu, Jan 18, 2024 at 3:04 PM

To: "Laurence Michael B. Tibon" <laurencetibon@arta.gov.ph>, "odg@arta.gov.ph" <odg@arta.gov.ph>, "masocorro@arta.gov.ph" <masocorro@arta.gov.ph>, "carlemiljacosalem@arta.gov.ph" <carlemiljacosalem@arta.gov.ph>, "oddg.operations@arta.gov.ph" <oddg.operations@arta.gov.ph>, "tbmarcelo@bsp.gov.ph" <TBMarcelo@bsp.gov.ph>, "wsamaniego@bsp.gov.ph" <wsamaniego@bsp.gov.ph>, "Karizza Mae P. Paredes" <karizzamaeparedes@arta.gov.ph>, "masongsongcv@bsp.gov.ph" <masongsongcv@bsp.gov.ph>, "Maria Donabelle M. Cadag" <cadagmm@bsp.gov.ph>, "Angelito L. Banares" <banaresal@bsp.gov.ph>, Christian Joseph G Zosa <CGZosa@bsp.gov.ph>, "ongjd@bsp.gov.ph" <ongjd@bsp.gov.ph>, "balboald@bsp.gov.ph" <balboald@bsp.gov.ph>, "macasaquitmr@bsp.gov.ph" <macasaquitmr@bsp.gov.ph>, "Renzcy Dianna M. Cervantes" <cervantesrm@bsp.gov.ph>, Robbie Banaga <robbie.banaga@bir.gov.ph>, "lyka.leigh.tolentino@bir.gov.ph" <lyka.leigh.tolentino@bir.gov.ph>, "Atty. Marco C. Maat" <MarcoMaat@construction.gov.ph>, "AngelinaMargaretTajon@construction.gov.ph" <AngelinaMargaretTajon@construction.gov.ph>, "rosemariedelrosario@construction.gov.ph" <rosemariedelrosario@construction.gov.ph>, "external.affairs@customs.gov.ph" <external.affairs@customs.gov.ph>, "vincentphilip.maronilla@customs.gov.ph" <vincentphilip.maronilla@customs.gov.ph>, BOC - Office of Commissioner Rey Leonardo Guerrero <boc.ocom@customs.gov.ph>, "psddivision@gmail.com" <psddivision@gmail.com>, "ifg\_ifpo@dof.gov.ph" <ifg\_ifpo@dof.gov.ph>, "jlontok@dof.gov.ph" <jlontok@dof.gov.ph>, Clarissa Joyce Villegas <cvillegas@dof.gov.ph>, "arillon@dof.gov.ph" <arillon@dof.gov.ph>, "fortilla@dof.gov.ph" <fortilla@dof.gov.ph>, "mbarte@dof.gov.ph" <mbarte@dof.gov.ph>, "afang@dof.gov.ph" <afang@dof.gov.ph>, Michael Sinocruz <mike\_sinocruz@yahoo.com>, "icalapit@doe.gov.ph" <icalapit@doe.gov.ph>, "jsernal@doe.gov.ph" <jsernal@doe.gov.ph>, "ouppia@denr.gov.ph" <ouppia@denr.gov.ph>, "Consolacion\_crisostomo@emb.gov.ph" <Consolacion\_crisostomo@emb.gov.ph>, "policy@denr.gov.ph" <policy@denr.gov.ph>, "odpps@yahoo.com" <odpps@yahoo.com>, "oumaier@dfa.gov.ph" <oumaier@dfa.gov.ph>, "lmdeleon@dilg.gov.ph" <lmdeleon@dilg.gov.ph>, Lucita Dela Peña <lldelapena@dilg.gov.ph>, DFA - International Economic Policy Negotiations and Multilateral Trade Division - OUIER <iepn.ouier@dfa.gov.ph>, "oca@dfa.gov.ph" <oca@dfa.gov.ph>, "gina.jamoralin@dfa.gov.ph" <gina.jamoralin@dfa.gov.ph>, "arnel.sanchez@dfa.gov.ph" <arnel.sanchez@dfa.gov.ph>, "anthony.aguirre@dfa.gov.ph" <anthony.aguirre@dfa.gov.ph>, "oca.crd@dfa.gov.ph" <oca.crd@dfa.gov.ph>, "pjqacebu@dilg.gov.ph" <pjqacebu@dilg.gov.ph>, Yiazumi Sia <yssia@dilg.gov.ph>, Jose Arturo De Castro <jose.decastro@dict.gov.ph>, "christina.abalos@dict.gov.ph" <christina.abalos@dict.gov.ph>, "dlchan@doj.gov.ph" <dlchan@doj.gov.ph>, "jiancarlo.cristi@dict.gov.ph" <jiancarlo.cristi@dict.gov.ph>, "mlangeles@doj.gov.ph" <mlangeles@doj.gov.ph>, "kanitura@doj.gov.ph" <kanitura@doj.gov.ph>, "usec.laborrelations@dole.gov.ph" <usec.laborrelations@dole.gov.ph>, "berbitoniojr@dole.gov.ph" <berbitoniojr@dole.gov.ph>, "od\_ble@yahoo.com" <od\_ble@yahoo.com>, DOLE - International Labor Affairs Bureau <dole.ilab@ymail.com>, "ircd.ilab@yahoo.com" <ircd.ilab@yahoo.com>, "arnoldjanssen.saragena@ble.dole.gov.ph" <arnoldjanssen.saragena@ble.dole.gov.ph>, "Marie Sherylyn D. Aquia" <SherylynAquia@dti.gov.ph>, "Raissa Z. Faminial" <RaissaFaminial@dti.gov.ph>, maryjeanpacheco <maryjeanpacheco@dti.gov.ph>, "PhillipJasonRoque@dti.gov.ph" <PhillipJasonRoque@dti.gov.ph>, "sazacate@fda.gov.ph" <sazacate@fda.gov.ph>, "odg@fda.gov.ph" <odg@fda.gov.ph>, "iffarinas@fda.gov.ph" <iffarinas@fda.gov.ph>, "lmebalmes@fda.gov.ph" <lmebalmes@fda.gov.ph>, "baganapin@neda.gov.ph" <baganapin@neda.gov.ph>, "rdballester@neda.gov.ph" <rdballester@neda.gov.ph>, "ebaquino@sec.gov.ph" <ebaquino@sec.gov.ph>, "crmd\_publicassistance@sec.gov.ph" <crmd\_publicassistance@sec.gov.ph>, "cgfd@sec.gov.ph" <cgfd@sec.gov.ph>, "cgfd\_cgd@sec.gov.ph" <cgfd\_cgd@sec.gov.ph>, "ooleonardo@sec.gov.ph" <ooleonardo@sec.gov.ph>, NEDA - Cecille Labadan <mdlabadan@neda.gov.ph>, "mnurgel@neda.gov.ph" <mnurgel@neda.gov.ph>, "rfrfrome@neda.gov.ph" <rfrfrome@neda.gov.ph>, "Raphael A. Sanchez" <RASanchez@boi.gov.ph>, "Ernesto Delos Reyes Jr." <ECDelosReyes@boi.gov.ph>, "Rizel C. Barsabal" <RCBarsabal@boi.gov.ph>, "Paola Marie C. Viedor" <PMCViedor@boi.gov.ph>, Sarah Mae Galvez <SMGGalvez@boi.gov.ph>

Cc: "Ma. Corazon Halili-Dichosa" <MCHDichosa@boi.gov.ph>, Sandra Marie Recolizado <SMSRecolizado@boi.gov.ph>, "Maribel D. De Leon" <MDDeleon@boi.gov.ph>

**Sent on behalf of Executive Director Ma. Corazon Halili-Dichosa, BOI**

Dear Sirs and Mesdames:

BOI is pleased to invite the inter-agency to participate in the WTO Joint Statement Initiative on Investment Facilitation for Development (JSI on IFD) **Needs Assessment Consultation: Information Collection on Wednesday and Thursday, 07-08 February 2024 from 09:00 AM- 05:00 PM in Makati City (Hotel location to follow).**

The consultation session is part of the ongoing efforts of BOI and ITC to formulate the Needs Assessment for WTO JSI on IFD with the Inter-Agency. A needs assessment will be required to evaluate compliance with the provisions of the WTO IFD, and designate areas for technical assistance to ensure effective implementation of the Agreement.

ITC and BOI conducted a series of capacity building workshops in November 2023 to bring all relevant stakeholders in the Philippines to inform on the relevance of investment facilitation, the WTO IFD Agreement, and the needs assessment exercise. This exercise is organized into three phases: (a) Capacity Building; (b) Information Collection; and (c) Verification and Categorization of Measures.

**This two-day programme is being organized under the second phase to collect information for the needs assessment exercise.** ITC and the BOI seek to bring together all relevant stakeholders to work through WTO's Guidelines on the IFD Agreement that will feed into the analysis on current investment facilitation framework in the Philippines, gaps/challenges faced, and measures to be undertaken in this regard.

The project has allocated three (3) slots per agency. Participants are requested to confirm their participation through the registration link: <http://tinyurl.com/InterAgencyConsultation> on or before **31 January 2024**.

For reference, please find enclosed official letter and agenda. We are also sharing to the inter-agency the latest copy of the IFD text, following the finalization of the legal review.

Please do not hesitate to contact the BOI International Relations Division at [boi-ird@boi.gov.ph](mailto:boi-ird@boi.gov.ph) or Ms. Dominique Tablizo ([pddtablizo@boi.gov.ph](mailto:pddtablizo@boi.gov.ph)) for queries and concerns.

Thank you and we look forward to your active participation.

Best,

Dom

**Patricia Dominique D. Tablizo (Ms.)**

International Relations Division

Investments Policy and Planning Service

Board of Investments

Philippine Department of Trade and Industry

G/F Industry and Investments Building

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4 attachments

Invitation Letter to the JSI on IFD Needs Assessment Consultation on 07-08 February 2024.pdf  
146K



**JSI on IFD Distribution List\_240118.pdf**  
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**ARISE+PH\_NeedsAssessmentWorkshop\_7-8Feb2024.pdf**  
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**2023 11 27\_IFD Agreement\_W52-final\_PH.docx**  
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17 January 2024

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Dear Sirs and Mesdames:

The Department of Trade and Industry – Board of Investments (BOI) is pleased to invite the inter-agency to participate in the WTO Joint Statement Initiative on Investment Facilitation for Development (JSI on IFD) **Needs Assessment Consultation: Information Collection on Wednesday and Thursday, 07-08 February 2024 from 09:00 AM- 05:00 PM in Makati City (Hotel location to follow).**

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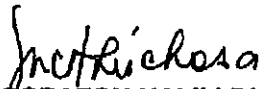
**This three-day programme is being organized under the second phase to collect information for the needs assessment exercise.** ITC and the BOI seek to bring together all relevant stakeholders to work through WTO's Guidelines on the IFD Agreement that will feed into the analysis on current investment facilitation framework in the Philippines, gaps/challenges faced, and measures to be undertaken in this regard.

The project has allocated three (3) slots per agency. Participants are requested to confirm their participation through the registration link: <http://tinyurl.com/InterAgencyConsultation> on or before 31 January 2024.


For reference, please find enclosed agenda. Please do not hesitate to contact the BOI International Relations Division at [boi-ird@boi.gov.ph](mailto:boi-ird@boi.gov.ph) or Ms. Dominique Tablizo ([pdtablizo@boi.gov.ph](mailto:pdtablizo@boi.gov.ph)) for queries and concerns.

Thank you and we look forward to your active participation.

Very truly yours,



**MA. CORAZON HALILI-DICHOSA**

Executive Director for Industry Development Services 

Enclosures: as stated.

**Output 1**

**Government and private operators are better able to identify and implement export priorities (including to the EU)**

**Activity Cluster 1.3**

**Provide targeted support to address critical gaps to participation in global value chains that are hindering exports in priority products or industries, through linkages with EU industry, especially concerning inclusive innovation and the entrepreneurship ecosystem.**

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## **ARISE PLUS PHILIPPINES**

### **STRENGTHENING THE INVESTMENT FACILITATION FRAMEWORK IN THE PHILIPPINES**

#### **NEEDS ASSESSMENT CONSULTATION: INFORMATION COLLECTION**

**BOI AND INTER-AGENCY NEGOTIATING TEAM**

**DATE/TIME: 7-8 FEBRUARY 2024**

**LOCATION: METRO MANILA (HOTEL TBC)**

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#### **CONTEXT**

The Board of Investment (BOI) of the Philippines in partnership with the International Trade Centre (ITC) is undertaking an assessment of the investment facilitation framework in the Philippines – based on the WTO Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD) Agreement.

The Philippines' participation in the WTO IFD negotiations – signals the intention of the country to streamline its investment rules and procedures, make more efficient administrative procedures and requirements, and build a conducive environment to attract and retain investments in the country. The conclusion of the negotiations in July 2023 has created an expectation for Member States to sign onto the implementation of the Agreement when in place. In this context, it would be relevant for Member States to undertake a needs assessment, based on guidelines developed by the WTO and related development partners and work on implementation of the Agreement. As other countries, party to the WTO IFD Agreement, start working on their domestic review in this context, it is important that the Philippines is not left behind and acts in a timely and efficient manner to progress on its efforts to create a conducive framework for investments.

In this regard, the BOI, with the technical assistance of ITC, is rolling out the needs assessment on the investment facilitation framework for the Philippines. ITC and BOI conducted a series of capacity building workshops in November 2023 to bring all relevant stakeholders in the Philippines up to speed on the relevance of investment facilitation, the WTO IFD Agreement, and the needs assessment exercise. This exercise is organized into three phases: (a) Capacity Building; (b) Information Collection; and (c) Verification and Categorization of Measures.

**This two-day programme is being organized under the second phase to collect information for the needs assessment exercise.** ITC and the BOI seek to bring together all relevant stakeholders to work through WTO's Guidelines on the IFD Agreement to feed into the analysis on current investment facilitation framework in the Philippines, gaps/challenges faced, and measures to be undertaken in this regard.

## OBJECTIVES

- Discuss and understand more clearly the application of investment facilitation in the Philippines
- Better understand the disciplines included in the WTO Investment Facilitation for Development Agreement within the framework of the needs assessment exercise
- Collect and compile information on the Philippines' regulatory and institutional framework in relation to the investment facilitation disciplines – to be utilised for the analysis and categorization of measures.

## AGENDA: 7-8 FEBRAURY 2024

Day 1: Wednesday, 7 February 2024	
TIME	DETAILS
09h00 – 09h15	<b>Opening Session</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Representative from the Board of Investment of the Philippines</li> <li>- Representative from the International Trade Centre</li> </ul>
09h15 – 10h15	<b>Setting the Context: Investment Facilitation – Relevance and Process</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Relevance of the IFD for developing countries and importance of the needs assessment process – Quan Zhao, Senior Programme Officer, ITC</li> <li>- The Investment Facilitation Process in the Philippines – Representative of BOI Philippines</li> <li>- Needs Assessment – Information Collection Process – ITC and BOI</li> </ul>
10h15 – 10h30	<b>Refreshment Break</b>
10h30 – 11h15	<b>Section II: Transparency of Investment Measures</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recap of provisions in relation to transparency of investment measures</li> <li>- Preliminary insights from the capacity building events</li> </ul>
11h15 – 12h30	<b>Section II: Transparency of Investment Measures</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Breakout sessions</li> </ul>
12h30 – 13h45	<b>Lunch Break</b>
13h45 – 14h15	<b>Section II: Transparency of Investment Measures</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Breakout sessions (Contd)</li> </ul>
14h15 – 15h30	<b>Section III: Streamlining and Speeding Up Administrative Procedures</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recap of provisions</li> <li>- Preliminary insights from capacity building events</li> </ul>
15h30 – 15h45	<b>Refreshment Break</b>
15h45 – 17h00	<b>Section III: Streamlining and Speeding Up Administrative Procedures</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Breakout sessions</li> </ul>

Day 2: Thursday, 8 February 2024	
TIME	DETAILS
09h00 – 09h15	<b>Recap of Day 1 and Plan for Day 2</b>
09h15 – 10h00	<b>Section III: Streamlining and Speeding Up Administrative Procedures</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Breakout sessions (Contd)</li> </ul>
10h00 – 10h15	<b>Refreshment Break</b>
10h15 – 11h00	<b>Section IV: Focal Points, Domestic Regulatory Coherence and Cross-Border Cooperation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recap of provisions</li> <li>- Preliminary insights from capacity building events</li> </ul>



11h00 – 12h30	<b>Section IV: Focal Points, Domestic Regulatory Coherence and Cross-Border Cooperation</b> - Breakout sessions
12h30 – 13h45	<b>Lunch</b>
13h45 – 14h30	<b>Section IV: Focal Points, Domestic Regulatory Coherence and Cross-Border Cooperation</b> - Breakout sessions (Contd)
14h30 – 15h00	<b>Section V: Sustainable Investment</b> - Recap of provisions - Preliminary insights
15h00 – 15h15	<b>Refreshment Break</b>
15h15 – 16h30	<b>Section V: Sustainable Investment</b> - Breakout session
16h30 – 17h00	<b>Closing Segment</b> - Q&A and Follow-Up Steps

#### Participants

- Board of Investment
- IFD – Inter-Agency Negotiating Team

#### Mode of Delivery

- Participants will be organized into groups during the breakout sessions for the purposes of facilitating open discussions on each of the sections of the Agreement.
- Participants are requested to be present across the duration of the programme – to ensure that all relevant agencies are effectively represented throughout the information collection process.
- The 'WTO Needs Assessment Guide' will be circulated to participants ahead of the programme - to enable preparation and allow for constructive discussions during the breakout sessions. ITC and BOI kindly request for all participants to review and prepare accordingly for these discussions, so that the breakout sessions are as constructive and informative as possible.

The International Trade Centre (ITC), a joint agency of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and United Nations (UN), is the only multilateral agency fully dedicated to supporting internationalisation of SMEs. ITC's mission is to foster inclusive and sustainable growth and development through trade and international business development.

The ITC is the technical agency implementing the ASEAN Regional Integration Support for the Philippines (ARISE Plus Philippines), funded by the European Union.

The activities proposed for this engagement are implemented under the ARISE Plus Philippines project, in collaboration with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and Board of Investments (BOI) in the Philippines.