

**DBCC Sub-Committee on Sustainable Development Goals (SC-SDG) Stakeholders' Chamber – Special Meeting**

**HIGHLIGHTS**

14 AUGUST 2024, 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

Zoom Video Conference

<b>ATTENDEES</b>	Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency	Mr. Donald James D. Gawe <i>Chairperson</i>
		Raymart V. Maruquez
	Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement	Ms. Rebecca L. Malay <i>Co-Chairperson</i>
	2030 Youth Force in the Philippines	Mr. Ranze Aaron Calderon
	Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Inc.	Ms. Ana Margarita N. Hontiveros
	Adarna Group Foundation, Inc.	Ms. Maria Concepcion V. Estrella
	Asian NGO Coalition For Agrarian Reform and Rural Development	<i>No representative</i>
	ASKI Group of Companies	Mr. Erwin S. Embuscado
	Association of Foundations Philippines, Inc.	Mr. Norman Q. Jiao Ms. Gina Estipona
	Ayala Corporation	Mr. Paolo Adrian B. Monteiro
	Blas F. Ople Policy Center and Training Institute	<i>No representative</i>
	Business for Sustainable Development, Inc.	Mr. Raoul S. Perez
	Center for Migrant Advocacy Philippines	Ms. Rowena Ordeles Ocado Ms. Hazel D. Cotoner
	Centre for Neighborhood Studies	Mr. Mark Anthony M. Gamboa
	Children of Asia Philippines	<i>No representative</i>
	Coolaire Consolidated, Inc.	Mr. Joel Ryan Tugade
	Employers Confederation of the Philippines	Ms. Abigail R. Gorospe
	EMS Group	Ms. Karylle Mae V. Capunitan
	E-Net Philippines	<i>No representative</i>
	European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines	Ms. Chienie Patricia R. Nethercott
	Evident Integrated	Ms. Cecile D. Yujuico

	Marking & PR	Ms. Diwa J. Velasquez
	First Philippine Holdings Corporation	<i>No representative</i>
	Food for the Hungry Philippines, Inc.	Mr. Michael R. Jalbuena
	France Volontaires	<i>No representative</i>
	Girl Scouts of the Philippines	Ms. Francine Beatriz DG. Pradez
	Global Reporting Initiative	Ms. Ma. Katreena V. Pillejera
	GoodGovPH	Mr. Ranze Aaron Calderon
	Government Watch	<i>No representative</i>
	Green Space	<i>No representative</i>
	Halal International Chamber of Commerce and Industries of the Philippines, Inc.	<i>No representative</i>
	International Care Ministries Foundation	<i>No representative</i>
	International Council on Monuments and Sites	<i>No representative</i>
	Jaime V. Ongpin Foundation, Inc.	Ms. Maria Rosario R. Lopez Ms. Corazon P. Sajonas Ms. Ester C. Liberato
	Jollibee Group Foundation	Mr. Paulo Eugenio Ms. Maria Lissa Victoria C. Nuesca
	Life Haven Center for Independent Living	<i>No representative</i>
	Manila Water Foundation	<i>No representative</i>
	Maranao People Development Center Inc.	Mr. Salic B. Ibrahim
	Maynilad Water Services Inc.	<i>No representative</i>
	Mindanao Trade Expo Foundation, Inc.	Ms. Marian M. Comilang
	The Moropreneur Inc	<i>No representative</i>
	National Trade Union Center of the Philippines	<i>No representative</i>
	National Youth Volunteers' Coalition	<i>No representative</i>
	Nickel Asia Corporation	<i>No representative</i>
	Novaliches Development Cooperative	Ms. Marlene D. Sindayen
	Philippine Alliance of Patient Organizations	<i>No representative</i>
	Philippine Business for Education	Mr. Manuel Benjamin R. San Mateo IV
	Philippine Business for	Mr. Elvin Ivan Yaw Uy

	Social Progress	Ms. Cherry Rose F. Piñon
	Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry	Mr. Joel Ryan Tugade Ms. Ma. Joanna Paula L. Pascual Ms. Marlaine Ambata
	Philippines Partnership for Sustainable Agriculture	Ms. Veronica Yabut Limpin
	PLDT and Smart Communications	Ms. Rhea Dienzo Mr. Edmar B. Pasilaban
	Project SMILE	Mr. Glenndre Aian Asilo
	Public Services Labor Independent Confederation	Ms. Jillian T. Roque
	Positive Youth Development Network, Inc.	<i>No representative</i>
	Ramon Aboitiz Foundation, Inc.	Mr. Emmanuel E. Enopia Ms. Estee Patiño Plunket
	Rublou Group of Companies	Mr. Arnold Tuma-ob
	Samahang Pisika ng Pilipinas, Inc.	<i>No representative</i>
	Save the Children Philippines	<i>No representative</i>
	SEAOIL Foundation, Inc.	Mr. Ramon Emmanuel R. Derige
	SGV & Co.	Ms. Katrina F. Francisco
	Social Watch Philippines Foundation	Ms. Jessica Reyes-Cantos Mr. Alce C. Quitlig
	Siklab Pilipinas	<i>No representative</i>
	SUSTAINARUMBLE!	Mr. Christopher Klein Asinas
	Unang Hakbang Foundation, Inc.	Ms. Maria Olivia C. Lucas
	Waves for Water Philippines, Inc.	Ms. Sarah Reenfrida J. Dimalaluan Ms. Lianna Francesca Cabigas
	World Vision Development Foundation, Inc.	Mr. Aldwin L. Jamora
	Yakap At Halik Multi-Purpose Cooperative Quezon 1	<i>No representative</i>
	Zuellig Family Foundation, Inc.	Ms. Sealdi C. Gonzales
<b>I. PRELIMINARIES</b>		<b>Executive Director Donald James Gawe</b> PNVSCA / Chairperson
CALL TO ORDER AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ATTENDEES	1. Executive Director Donald James D. Gawe of the Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA), the Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 1:40 PM, and turned the floor over to Ms. Karen M. Resurreccion of the SC-SDG Secretariat to recognize the members present virtually.	

MEETING AGENDA	<p>2. The Chairperson began the meeting by providing the body with an overview of the main agenda of the special meeting, which is to brief the members on the Program Convergence Budgeting on the SDGs (PCB-SDG). The following items were covered and presented by the SC-SDG Secretariat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Overview of the PCB Framework for SDGs, and the Call for Proposals for Fiscal Year (FY) 2026</li> <li>b. Key PCB-SDG Flagship Programs and Outcomes</li> <li>c. Endorsed List of Programs, Activities, and Projects (PAPs) under the FY 2025 PCB-SDG</li> <li>d. Next Steps and Announcements</li> </ul>
<b>II. MEETING AGENDA</b>	
<b>Agenda: Briefing on the PCB-SDGs (Pursuant to Republic Act No. 11467)</b>	<b>Ms. Karen M. Resurreccion NEDA / SC-SDG Secretariat</b>
Presentation	<p>Ms. Resurreccion of the Secretariat formally introduced the PCB-SDG initiative of the government to the body. In her presentation, she briefed the members on the salient points of the PCB Framework on the SDGs and its Implementation Guidelines. She shared: (1) figures relative to the excise tax collections under Republic Act (RA) No. 11467; (2) information on the call for proposals and the requisite documents for submission; (3) the key PCB-SDG flagship programs; and (4) the list of PAPs approved by the SC-SDG in support thereof <i>(Please refer to the copy of the SC-SDG Secretariat's presentation deck for the Special Meeting for more details)</i>.</p>
Discussion	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. During the discussion, Ms. Jessica Reyes-Cantos of Social Watch Philippines (SWP) raised the following questions and concerns: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <i>Will the PCB-SDG proposals go through the General Appropriations Act (GAA) process and need Congressional Approval?</i></li> <li>b. <i>What will prevent our legislators from proposing amendments to the PCB-SDG Programs, Activities, and Projects (PAPs) as they see fit?</i></li> <li>c. <i>Do we have all the data needed to fully support the rationale for the identification of PCB-SDG PAPs? Are we ready to have an evidence-based defense [when they go through the GAA process]?</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>2. In line with the GAA process, Director Reverie Pure G. Sapaen of the NEDA Governance Staff and Head of the SC-SDG Secretariat, explained that once endorsed by the SC-SDG, PCB-SDG PAPs will undergo the same review process that usual budget proposals go through (i.e., Department of Budget and Management (DBM) criteria and evaluation process). Once approved by the DBM and the President, and reflected in the National Expenditure Program (NEP), it will be subjected to Congress' approval. On concerns on possible Congress intervention in the design of the projects, she</li> </ol>

	<p>replied that they have yet to do this and if they will, it will likely apply only to big ticket PAPs. The Chairperson agreed and assured the body that as long as the projects are well-prepared with all necessary documents, it will not be difficult to convince Congress to approve. He also reminded the body that, in principle, all PAPs included in the agency budget proposals must go through the scrutiny of Congress.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. On the availability and readiness of the data that will support the rationale for the PAPs when they undergo Congress scrutiny, as a member of the Technical Working Group (TWG) on Social, the Chairperson attested that the rationale and technical aspects of the flagship programs and proposed initiatives were thoroughly considered. He also mentioned that there were workshops and meetings conducted for the preparation of these programs.</li> <li>4. To give the members a clearer picture of how proposals are approved, Ms. Resurreccion enumerated the process involved leading up to the actual fund release, starting from the project evaluation of the Secretariat, review and approval of the SC-SDG, submission of the approved list of PAPs to DBM for their review, inclusion in the NEP (as approved by the President), until it is submitted to Congress. Relative to the Congress' power of the purse, she also mentioned the possibility that projects that were excluded in the NEP will be included later on in the GAA, or vice versa. Nevertheless, Congress is more focused on which projects will be getting a piece of the pie (i.e., budget) rather than amending their design. Currently, the Secretariat is waiting for the DBM's response to its request to be provided with the final list of PAPs approved for funding for FY 2025.</li> <li>5. Still in response to the SWP's concern, the Chairperson asked for confirmation from the Secretariat if the agencies utilized the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC)'s participatory mechanisms in their planning processes. The Secretariat responded that the formulation of flagship programs and proposals was deferred to each of the proponent agencies, following their own planning processes. On the PCB-SDG flagship program "Establishment of Local Participatory Governance and Social Reform Mechanisms" to be led by NAPC, Ms. Resurreccion informed the Chair that no PAP was approved by the SC-SDG under this flagship program. She also clarified that NAPC will not necessarily submit or implement a PAP under this flagship program, but rather serve as the lead oversight agency, meaning they will mainly be responsible for monitoring its implementation. She likewise confirmed that NAPC sits as a member of both the Social and Peace, Security, and Governance (PSG) TWGs.</li> <li>6. With regard to questions concerning the list of flagship programs under the PCB-SDG, Ms. Resurreccion encouraged the members</li> </ol>
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to check the details of each program through the NEDA SDG website. She also reassured the members that a copy of the presentation deck and other relevant materials would be circulated after the meeting as per usual practice.

7. Mr. Alce C. Quitilig from the SWP noted that the Budget of Expenditures and Sources of Financing (BESF) is already published and shows which PAPs are proposed to be given a budget allocation for PCB areas in the FY2025 proposed budget. Provided that only the Philippine Center for Economic Development (PCED) project is included in the BESF, he asked if this means that the DBM has not approved the other endorsed PCB-SDG PAPs and inquired about NEDA's plan relative to this. Dir. Sapaen confirmed that only those reflected in the BESF are approved. She likewise reiterated the distinct roles that relevant agencies play for this initiative: NEDA will focus on determining the SDG responsiveness of proposed PAPs using the SDG lens, while DBM will determine whether allocation will be provided to the project based on its own set of criteria, such as absorptive capacity and implementation readiness, among others. As the budget hearings are still ongoing, however, NEDA will look into how other proposed PCB-SDG PAPs may still be considered for FY 2025.
8. Clarifications on the role of and expectations from the Stakeholders' Chamber and its members pertinent to the PCB-SDG were also raised by participants from the World Vision Development Foundation, Inc. (WVDF) and SWP. These include:
  - a. *Considering that the PCB-SDG PAPs for FY 2025 were already submitted, what will be the role of the Stakeholders' Chamber members?*
  - b. *Considering that Stakeholders' Chamber members did not have involvement in the proposal preparation of the said PAPs, how about in the implementation, monitoring, or other roles?*
  - c. *Is it possible for CSOs to be recognized by the implementing agencies and be involved from the get-go of the project preparation as the non-government partner in the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of the PCB-SDG PAPs?*
9. For PCB-SDG PAPs that will be approved for inclusion in the GAA, Ms. Resurreccion stated that it is still possible for the Chamber members to be involved in the implementation, follow-through, and monitoring processes of the PAPs, even if they were not involved in designing the project. The Secretariat will make this clear to participating/implementing agencies and will encourage them to engage with the Stakeholders' Chamber. In terms of monitoring how the agencies are implementing the PCB-SDG PAPs, the Chairperson suggested to look into the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the Chamber's Measurement and Monitoring (M&M) Working Group (WG) and consider incorporating how they can be involved in this matter.

10. To understand the expected approach for this initiative, Ms. Cecile D. Yujuico from Evident Integrated Marketing and PR (Evident) inquired about specific mechanisms or processes that are in place for government agencies to engage with the members of the Stakeholders' Chamber as part of their proposal development. Relative to the FY 2026 call for proposals issued to the government agencies, Ms. Resurreccion shared that a specific provision was included enjoining agencies to involve the members of the Stakeholders' Chamber whose activities are aligned with the goals of their proposed PAPs. A list of the Chamber members, complete with a description of their thrusts, priorities, and focus Goals, was also provided to the government agencies to serve as their reference in determining which organizations to engage in the project proposal preparation, should they choose to do so. Though no formal mechanism for engagement is institutionalized yet, she shared two (2) ways this engagement may happen:
- a. Government agency(ies) interested to submit a proposal and engage a Chamber member (based on the list provided) can coordinate with the SC-SDG Secretariat and request the contact information of their selected Chamber member/s, for possible partnership;
  - b. Chamber member(s) interested to pitch a proposal anchored on the key flagship program(s) can coordinate directly with the appropriate government agency(ies), for possible partnership *(Note: This is subject to the concerned government agency(ies)' consideration as the project proponent).*
11. In addition to the above-mentioned approaches, the Chairperson proposed that the Secretariat endorse to the appropriate government agency/ies should a member of the Chamber express intention to participate or be involved in a specific flagship program that they deem they can contribute to.
12. Provided that only around PhP100 million (from the PhP21.67 billion earmarked for the SDGs for FY 2025) will cover the eight (8) endorsed PCB-SDG projects, Mr. Michael R. Jalbuena of the Food for the Hungry Inc. (FH) asked what will happen to the balance, and if government agencies and CSOs can propose additional PAPs to utilize them. Dir. Sapaen replied that the Secretariat will coordinate with the DBM about this to understand the budgeting process better and learn more about what happens to the balance. Based on previous consultations with DBM, however, allocation is only available for utilization for a specific fiscal year and the balance reverts to the government pool (through the Bureau of Treasury or BoT). CSOs, however, cannot propose PAPs on their own, as the PCB-SDG funding is only available to government.
13. Mr. Aldwin L. Jamora from the WVDF proposed that contact details

	<p>of the participating/government agencies also be provided to the members of the Stakeholders' Chamber. Similar to their government counterparts, the Chairperson asked the members to coordinate with the Secretariat should they need the contact information of a concerned agency.</p> <p>14. Ms. Rebecca L. Malay, Director of the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM), Co-Chairperson of the Chamber, observed that there is a huge difference between what is available and what has been allocated thus far. To this end, she asked if the utilization of the earmarked funds is going to be monitored and if there is any way to implement the SDG PAPs immediately before the 2030 deadline. Provision of grants to CSOs [to implement PAPs where they can complement] and other modalities for allocation were suggested in this regard.</p> <p>15. Considering that this is the pilot year of its implementation, the Secretariat will consider the suggestions for further improvement of the PCB-SDG guidelines. Acknowledging the concern on the utilization of the earmarked funds, Dir. Sapaen replied that the Secretariat is looking into the value of expanding the areas or scope of the flagship programs where PAPs can fall under. As to who should closely monitor the utilization, the Chairperson responded that the Chamber may also be involved in this, led by its Chair and Co-Chair, as ex-officio members of the SC-SDG.</p> <p>16. Mr. Elvin Ivan Uy from the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) mentioned that they were not privy to the PCB-SDG initiative until this meeting, despite their frequent meetings with government agencies who are also looking for funding for SDG PAPs. As the lead oversight agency, he asked NEDA to provide clearer guidance and concrete ways how to involve the stakeholders. In response to this, Dir. Sapaen clarified that although PCB in general has been instituted for quite some time, the PCB-SDG initiative itself is still new. Nevertheless, to address the information asymmetry, the Secretariat will duly note the comment in terms of raising public awareness of PCB-SDGs.</p> <p>17. In terms of deepening stakeholder involvement, Dir. Sapaen stated that there may be a need for the SC-SDG TWGs and the Chamber to meet and get to know each other to help move along the PCB-SDG initiative. The Co-Chairperson supported this, emphasizing the importance of incorporating openness and inclusiveness as principles in the process and encouraging government partnership with CSOs and private sectors to establish a community of practice. Among her suggestions to achieve these include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide all national government agencies a directory of the Stakeholders' Chamber members;</li> <li>Allot sufficient time for the duration of the call for proposals</li> </ol>
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	<p>(either extend the deadline of submission or open the call for at least a whole year); and/or</p> <p>c. Chamber to proactively approach government partners to work together on the PCB-SDG proposals.</p> <p>18. For the FY 2026 call for proposals, the Chairperson proposed to look into how to involve the members further in the review or monitoring of the implementation of these convergence PAPs. He also emphasized that besides implementation and monitoring, Chamber members may also be consulted/tapped in the actual proposal formulation.</p>
<b>NEXT STEPS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>	<p><u>Next Steps</u></p> <p>1. All comments and suggestions received by the Secretariat during the Special Meeting are noted and will be taken into consideration, especially in the enhancement of the PCB-SDG guidelines. Recommendations to extend the deadline for submission will also be considered. Moving forward, Secretariat will inform the members should there be any changes in the timeline/initiative.</p> <p>As for upcoming 2024 activities, the following were announced for the information of the members:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. September 10-11:</b> Workshop on the Formulation of the Stakeholders' Chamber</li> <li><b>2. October 16:</b> Second Semester Meeting of the DBCC SC-SDG Stakeholders' Chamber</li> <li><b>3. November 7:</b> Second Semester Meeting of the DBCC Sub-Committee on SDGs</li> </ol> <p>Other announcement by ED Gawe:  <b>September 27:</b> Volunteerism Expo of the Regional Development Council (RDC) 7 at SM Seaside</p>
<b>ADJOURNMENT</b>	<p>The Special Meeting of the Stakeholders' Chamber on the SDGs for the PCB-SDG was adjourned at 3:35 PM.</p>
<b>SECRETARIAT</b>	<p><i>NEDA Governance Staff</i></p> <p>Dir. Reverie Pure G. Sapaen  Ms. Joy J. Divinagracia  Ms. Karen M. Resurreccion  Ms. Janice G. Utanes  Ms. Rocelle Angel M. Vallente  Ms. Genshen L. Espedido  Ms. Maria Adela T. Maputi</p> <p><i>NEDA Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment Staff</i>  Ms. Mary Jane M. Dela Rosa</p>

	<p>Ms. Arvie Joy A. Manejar Mr. Dominic E. Andrada Ms. Jannah Mitzi DC. Gonzales</p> <p><i>NEDA National Policy and Planning Staff</i> Ms. Generose B. Manlangit Ms. Ma. Sabrina H. Bobis</p> <p><i>NEDA Social Development Staff</i> Ms. Aretha Janin O. Garcia Ms. Jhoanne O. Mahilum Ms. Arsenia Crisilda Maxinne B. Pepino Ms. Ezra Ysabela R. Dignadice</p>
<b>SPECIAL NOTES</b>	<p>For inquiries and clarifications, please email <a href="mailto:sdg-stakeholder@neda.gov.ph">sdg-stakeholder@neda.gov.ph</a>, copy furnish <a href="mailto:&amp;GOVS-pgd@neda.gov.ph">&amp;GOVS-pgd@neda.gov.ph</a>.</p>