

[**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 193, August 02, 1994**]

CREATING THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION ADVISORY AND ASEAN FREE TRADE ADVISORY COMMISSIONS, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

WHEREAS, on 15 April 1994, the Philippines was one among 111 countries that signed the Uruguay Final Act at Marrakesh, Morocco;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the terms of the Uruguay Round Agreement which is expected to take effect on 1 January 1995, the General Agreement on Tariff and Trade (GATT), shall then be known as the World Trade Organization (WTO);

WHEREAS, in view of the far-reaching effects of the Uruguay Round Agreement under the World Trade Organization, the Government recognizes the need to create a WTO Advisory Commission;

WHEREAS, the President issued Executive Order No. 38 (dated 27 November 1992) creating the ASEAN Free Trade Area Advisory Commission to ensure that the principles of just, equitable and sustainable development are incorporated in its studies and recommendations and to define the roles played by each sector in the attainment of its objectives;

WHEREAS, in order to maximize the efficiency of both multisectoral commissions, there is need to merge and consolidate the AFTA Advisory Commission with the WTO Advisory Commission;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, FIDEL V. RAMOS, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law and the Constitution, do hereby order:

SECTION 1. Creation of the WTO/AFTA Advisory Commission. There is hereby created the WTO/AFTA Advisory Commission (hereinafter referred to as the Commission), under the Office of the President.

SEC. 2. Composition. The Commission shall be composed of the following:

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| a. Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry | Chairman |
| b. Representative from the private sector to be appointed by the President | Co-Chairman |
| c. Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs | Member |
| d. Secretary of the Department of Finance | Member |
| e. Secretary of the Department of Agriculture | Member |

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| f. Secretary of the Department of Transportation and Communications | Member |
| g. Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources | Member |
| h. Secretary of the Department of Labor and Employment | Member |
| i. Secretary of the Department of Agrarian Reform | Member |
| j. Director General of the National Economic and Development Authority | Member |
| k. Press Secretary | Member |
| l. Governor of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas | Member |
| m. Head of the Presidential Legislative Liaison Office | Member |
| n. Eleven Representatives from the private sector representing industry, agriculture, labor, banking, export, academe, research and consumers | Members |

The members of the Commission may designate their duly authorized representatives. Such designated representatives shall have full powers to vote and act for, and in behalf of their principals, in any action to be taken by the Commission unless their designation provides otherwise.

The Commission, by a majority vote of all members, may replace past members and invite additional members whenever the circumstance so warrant.

SEC. 3. Powers and Functions. The Commission shall have the following powers and functions:

a. To prepare and implement a plan of action to be adopted by government and the private sector to comply with the Philippine commitments to the Uruguay Round and the ASEAN Free Trade Agreements through the following:

i. review and evaluation of existing laws and policies in light of Philippine commitments to the Uruguay Round and the ASEAN Free Trade Agreements;

ii. conduct of researches and studies on the issues and implications to the Philippine economy of both the regional and global agreements;

iii. recommendation of the amendment and/or revision of existing laws and policies or the enactment of additional laws, rules and regulations and policies when warranted; and

iv. identification of private sector initiatives and technological innovations that will enhance our competitive advantages in both the regional and global markets.