

Department of Foreign Affairs

The DFA official seal is the Philippine seal encircled by the words “Department of Foreign Affairs”.



As the primary agency responsible for Philippine foreign policy, the DFA, through its foreign service posts, is also the primary representative of the Philippine government overseas.

Legal Basis

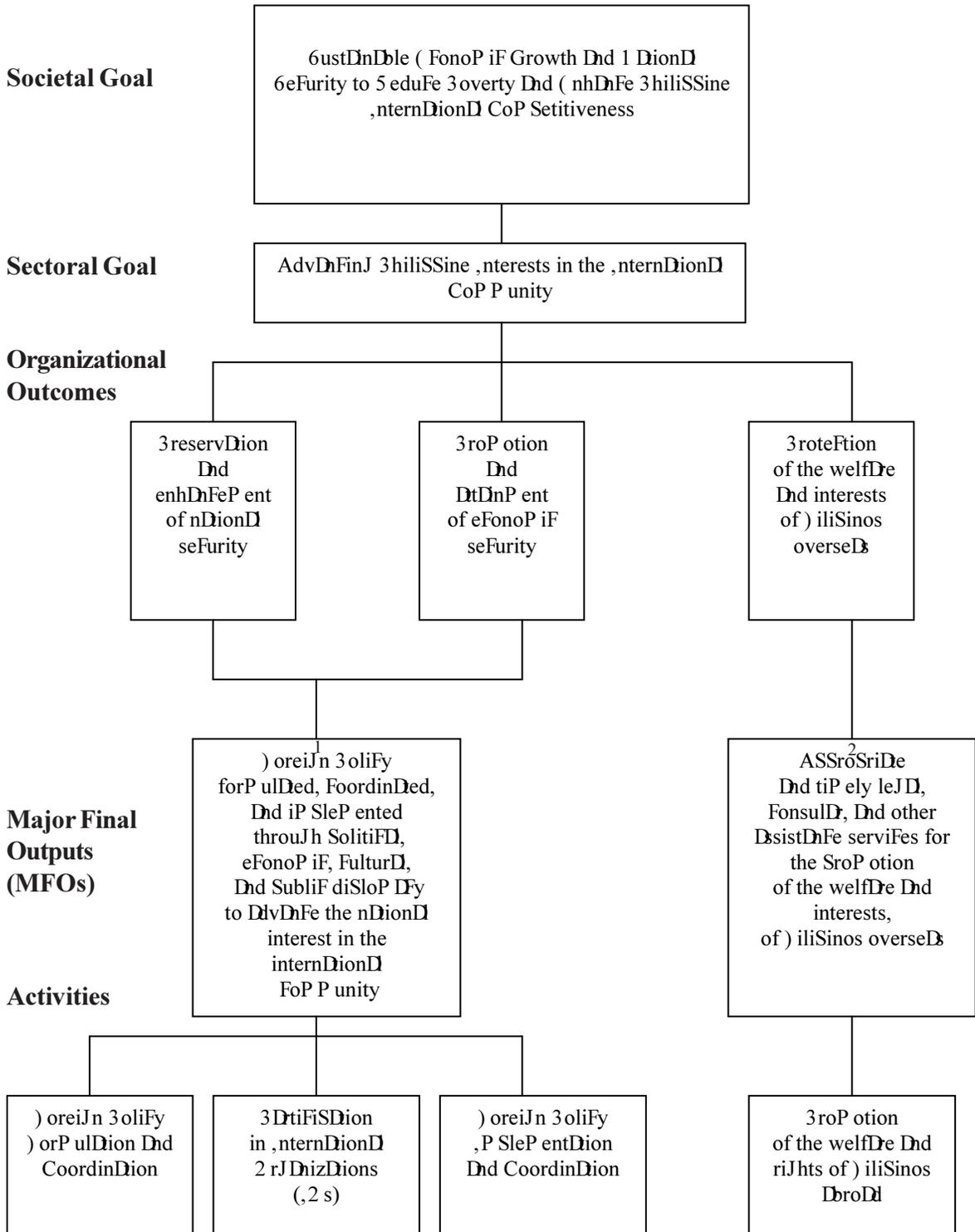
- **Commonwealth Act No. 732** (July 3, 1946) created the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).
- **Republic Act No. 708** (June 5, 1952), “Foreign Service Act of the Philippines”, reorganized and strengthened the foreign service of the Philippines to enable it to effectively serve the interests of the country abroad.
- **Republic Act No. 7157** (September 19, 1991), “Philippine Foreign Service Act of 1991”, amended the Foreign Service Act of 1952 to further reorganize and strengthen the Philippine Foreign Service, including the organization of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Mandate

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) advises and assists the President in planning, organizing, directing, coordinating, integrating, and evaluating the total national effort in the field of foreign relations in pursuit of its Constitutional mandate.

I've made foreign relations and engagement a hallmark of my administration in order to take the Philippines out of isolationism and encourage stronger economic ties with the region, with our Muslim brothers and with the world. - PGMA, March 21, 2005

LOGICAL FRAMEWORK (DFA)



SOCIETAL GOAL

Sustainable Economic Growth and National Security to Reduce Poverty and Enhance Philippine International Competitiveness

As a national government agency, the DFA is guided by the priorities set in the Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan.

“Enhance Philippine International Competitiveness” reflects the global scope and coverage of DFA’s work. The DFA, as the primary agent responsible for Philippine foreign policy, implements Philippine policy and monitors Philippine interests in other countries.

SECTOR GOAL

Advancing Philippine Interests in the International Community

The DFA is constitutionally mandated to pursue “an independent foreign policy ... (whose) paramount consideration shall be national sovereignty, territorial integrity, national interest, and the right to self-determination.

In the fulfillment of its mandate, the DFA must ensure that its activities and programs effectively advance the interests of the Philippines and the Filipino people in the world community.

ORGANIZATION OUTCOMES

The three pillars of foreign policy, namely, the preservation and enhancement of national security, the promotion and attainment of economic security, and the protection of the welfare and interests of Filipinos overseas overlap and cannot be considered apart from each other. Together with the eight foreign policy realities, they reinforce each other and must be addressed as a whole.

Preservation and Enhancement of National Security

The Philippine government seeks to strengthen strategic relationship with the United States and other strategic partners to propel the common commitment to fight terrorism domestically, regionally, and worldwide.

It also ensures the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic by taking steps to settle territorial disputes in the South China Sea and Sabah in a peaceful and friendly manner by implementing the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), and working towards the formulation of a regional Code of Conduct in the South China Sea.

Towards enhanced national security, the DFA seeks to contribute to the peaceful settlement of the problems facing Southern Philippines and the rehabilitation of AO MM and Central Mindanao; to maximize bilateral and multilateral ties to improve P’s defense and military capabilities and to build the capacity of local law enforcement agencies on counter-terrorism.

Promotion and Attainment of Economic Security

The DFA seeks to expand its economic diplomacy effects by implementing the Country-Team approach abroad to promote Philippine goods and services, particularly in countries without trade attaches; strengthening and focusing economic diplomacy efforts on the top 20 economic posts for their trade, investment, tourism, and other commercial potentials; and strengthening logistical support to Posts in terms of promotional plans and programs, sourcing and dissemination of promotional materials, produce samples and current information on the Philippines.

Protection of the Rights, and the Promotion of the Welfare and Interests, of Filipino Overseas

The DFA is mandated to protect the rights and promote the welfare and interests of Filipinos overseas by adopting a more pro-active approach in monitoring the conditions, and ensuring the security, of Filipinos there working with regional and multilateral organizations for the protection and promotion of their welfare; reducing the vulnerability of overseas Filipino workers to terrorist attacks; strengthening the welfare mechanisms for Overseas Filipinos; implementing fairly and effectively the Overseas Absentee Voting Law; strengthening capabilities for Assistance-to-Nationals (ATN); and providing consular and other services.

MAJOR FINAL OUTPUTS

1. Foreign policy formulated, coordinated, and implemented through political, economic, cultural, and public diplomacy to advance the national interest in the international community

The conduct of studies, research, analysis, monitoring and reporting of political, economic, cultural and social developments and issues of Philippine interest is undertaken to recommend policy options to the President. Legal services relative to treaties, agreements, and other similar documents are also being provided.

The DFA seeks pro-active involvement in shaping the regional environment through ASbAN and ASbAN's engagement with the major powers, and the promotion of mutual understanding and appreciation of cultures.

It works for increased and fair market access for Philippine products and services by ensuring economic benefits from regional and bilateral free trade agreements (FTAs), regional integration, technical assistance, capacity building, technology transfer, and other economic cooperation agreements to maximize exports and investment opportunities.

It seeks to enhance diplomatic links with the international community, most especially with ASbAN neighbors, the United States, Japan, China, and the European Union, and with major trading partners; and to participate in APbC, ASbM, FbAiAC, and other regional fora to promote a liberalized trading environment and support for the multilateral trading system.

2. Appropriate and timely legal, consular, and other assistance services for the promotion of the welfare and interests of Filipinos overseas

Protecting the interests and welfare of Filipinos overseas is one of the three important pillars of Philippine foreign policy. To ensure that the rights of these Filipinos are protected, and that their welfare is safeguarded, the Department provides legal, consular, and other forms of assistance to them.

Performance Measures and Targets

Particulars	2007 Targets	Remarks
<p>MFO 1 Foreign policy formulated, coordinated, and implemented through political, economic, cultural, and public diplomacy to advance the national interest in the international community</p>		
<p>Policy recommendations submitted to the Secretary/the President/Congress</p>	<p><i>Timeliness:</i> 80% of policy recommendations submitted on the deadlines set</p>	<p>The 80% target was arrived at by a consensus among the various offices within the Department, considering the constraints and variables in the submission of policy recommendations to the Secretary, the President, or Congress, regardless of whether the deadlines are imposed on the Department or initiated by it. The target is a more realistic one and more likely to be achieved.</p>
<p>Policy statement/directive from the President, the Secretary, or other government agencies concerning the country's foreign relations</p>	<p><i>Quality:</i> 90% of statements/directives implemented</p>	<p>Policy statements and directives are relatively easier to implement since they are more focused, specific, and issue-based and will normally require further documentation or paper work and coordination, for the most part, within the Department.</p>
<p>Treaties, conventions, agreements, MOUs negotiated and implementation monitored</p>	<p><i>Quantity:</i> 70% of treaties/conventions, agreements negotiated and implementation monitored</p>	<p>Treaties, conventions, agreements, MOUs usually demand a longer period to negotiate, to conclude, and to sign. The same thing applies to the monitoring of its implementation since each agreement may present various phases of implementation and many</p>

Particulars	2007 Targets	Remarks
	<p><i>Timeliness:</i> 100% of visas issued within seven (7) working days</p>	<p>times may need inter-agency efforts and collaboration. The DFA, while remaining the lead agency in the negotiation process, cannot be made accountable for monitoring the implementation of all agreements since some areas are not within the technical competence of the Department. Each agreement or convention has its own peculiarities and variables in the implementation stage.</p> <p>This is a frontline service of the Department requiring a high degree of client satisfaction</p>
<p>MFO 2 Appropriate and timely legal, consular, and other assistance services for the promotion of the welfare and interests of Filipinos overseas</p> <p>Effective and efficient delivery of passport services</p> <p>Effective delivery of authentication and other consular services</p>	<p><i>Timeliness:</i> 100% of documents released after seven (7) working days</p> <p><i>Timeliness:</i> 100% of documents released after five (5) working days</p> <p><i>Quantity:</i> 20% of overseas Filipino voters registered over total number of qualified voters (Disaggregated by gender)</p>	<p>This is a frontline service of the Department requiring a high degree of client satisfaction.</p> <p>This is a frontline service of the Department requiring a high degree of client satisfaction.</p> <p>The 20% target, although apparently small relative to the rest of the performance targets, is actually based on the potential number of Filipinos who may register during the last quarter of the year. Further, this period represents the first three months of the continuing registration period as provided for under Comelec Resolution No. 7447. Registration shall last until 31 August 2006.</p>

Particulars	2007 Targets	Remarks
Assistance to overseas Filipinos	<p><i>Quantity:</i> 100% of overseas Filipinos assisted (Disaggregated by gender)</p> <p><i>Timeliness:</i> 80% of cases acted upon within 48 hours upon receipt of request or information</p>	Rendering assistance to Filipinos overseas and their next of kin in the country is one of the pillars of Philippine foreign policy. In this regard, it is also considered a frontline service. The Department aspires to serve all Filipinos whether they seek assistance here in the home office or in its posts abroad. The Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs (OUMWA) can guarantee 100% assistance on all cases presented before it, but the same may not hold true for Posts abroad.

FY 2007 OPIF-Based Budget

FY 2007 Budget by MFO, Expense Class

Particulars	Personal Services	Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses	Capital Outlay	Total
MFO 1 Foreign Policy formulated, coordinated, and implemented through political, economic, cultural, and public diplomacy to advance the national interest in the international community	P 3,320,124,980	P 906,397,690	P 141,521,670	P 4,368,044,340
MFO 2 Appropriate and timely legal, consular, and other assistance services for the promotion of the welfare and interests of Filipinos overseas	158,939,020	2,544,480,310	257,517,330	2,960,936,660
TOTAL	P3,479,064,000	P3,450,878,000	P399,039,000	P7,328,981,000

**(FY 2007 Budget by MFO
(Total Budget = ₱7,328,981,000)**

