

## TEC resumes in-person meetings, discusses tripartite roadmap on FOA



The Tripartite Executive Committee (TEC) had its first hybrid meeting on 15 March 2022 following the declaration of Alert Level 1 in Metro Manila and the easing of restrictions in physical gatherings and events. More than twenty (20) TEC members joined through videoconferencing while five (5) labor representatives physically attended the meeting at the OSEC Conference Room. Undersecretary Benavidez and BLR Director Bacay presided over the meeting, which focused on the development of a tripartite roadmap on freedom of association (FOA) and

civil liberties.

Dir. Bacay presented the initial activities to be assumed under the tripartite roadmap consistent with the recommendation of the September 2021 High-Level Tripartite Meeting (HLTM) on the Philippine Application of ILO C. 87, and of the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR) to adopt a time-bound plan of action to address the following four (4) areas of concerns: (1) effective measures to prevent violence in relation to FOA; (2) immediate and effective investigations into allegations of violence against trade unionists; (3) operationalization of monitoring bodies; and (4) ensuring that all workers can form and join their chosen organizations.



Among the points discussed in the meeting are the prioritization and identification of activities, challenges, and milestones of the tripartite roadmap. Nevertheless, Usec. Benavidez emphasized that the tripartite roadmap was not yet to be considered cast in stone but would be subject to modifications and further inputs in subsequent meetings and tripartite plus consultations.

**END/Athena M. Villagonzalo**