

Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines
Senate

Manila City

Nineteenth Congress

Second Regular Session



RESOLUTION No. 98

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE ENDURING AMITY
AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF
THE PHILIPPINES AND THE KINGDOM OF
NORWAY, AND COMMEMORATING THE 75TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

WHEREAS, the Republic of the Philippines and the Kingdom of Norway have a long history of cooperation, which has expanded beyond the maritime sector and into the energy sector, extractive industries like oil and gas, aquaculture, IT services, telecommunications, academic exchanges, social security, labor, migration, and peace and reconciliation efforts;

WHEREAS, the Philippines and Norway established formal diplomatic relations on March 2, 1948, with the Embassy of the Kingdom of Norway being established in Manila in 1967 and the Philippine Embassy in Norway being established in Oslo in 2007;

WHEREAS, Norway has been a long-term partner of the Philippines in the maritime sector, with the maritime cooperation between the two States spanning over 100 years. Part of the long-standing cooperation between the Philippines and Norway is the establishment of the Norwegian Shipowners' Association (NSA) Cadet program, with the objective of developing Filipino maritime professionals through scholarship grants. The Norwegian Training Center (NTC) in Manila has produced almost 6,000 cadets and the NSA in Oslo has provided scholarships to Filipinos and employed NTC graduates in Norwegian ships;

WHEREAS, as of October 2022, there are already over 25,000 Filipino seafarers working aboard Norwegian ships or in shipyards, accounting for a third of all seafarers on Norwegian-controlled vessels;

WHEREAS, the Norwegian Maritime Authority continues to assist the Philippine Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) in ensuring that the training and education of Filipino seafarers are in compliance with the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers;

WHEREAS, the Philippines Norway Business Council (PNBC) has around 50 member companies and institutions, with the Embassy of the Kingdom of Norway being a founding member and permanent observer in the PNBC board. Over the years, there has been a growing interest among Norwegian companies in investing in industrial enterprises and in the renewable energy sector in the Philippines. The Norwegian Government Pension Fund - Global also holds shares in several Philippine companies;

WHEREAS, as of January 2023, there are almost 28,000 Filipinos living in Norway and part of its labor workforce.

Similarly, a substantial number of Norwegians are living in the Philippines and are engaged in business or doing charitable work;

WHEREAS, Norway is among the eight (8) countries that gave financial contribution to the United Nations Joint Programme on Human Rights developed to implement Human Rights Council Resolution 45/33, which outlines specific areas for capacity-building and technical cooperation for the protection and promotion of human rights in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, Norway continues to support the peace process in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) and sits as the Vice-Chair of the Independent Decommissioning Body in charge of post-conflict decommissioning efforts of Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) combatants. Norway is also the third-party facilitator of peace negotiations between the Philippine Government and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), and has been part of the International Monitoring Team maintaining the ceasefire between the Philippine government and the MILF in Mindanao;

WHEREAS, the diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Norway have resulted in the following agreements:

1. Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the European Free Trade Agreement (EFTA) Member States (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, and Switzerland) and the Philippines, signed in Bern, Switzerland on April 28, 2016;
2. Agreement on Maritime Transport between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway, signed in Manila on October 22, 1999;
3. Protocol between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway, Amending the Convention for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and on Capital, signed in Manila on May 22, 1989;

4. Convention between the Kingdom of Norway and the Republic of the Philippines for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income and on capital, signed in Manila on July 9, 1987;

5. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway regarding the development of suitable water power schemes in the electricity supply system in selected areas in the Philippines, signed in Manila on May 15, 1979;

6. Memorandum of Understanding on trade textiles between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway, signed in Manila on October 7, 1978; and

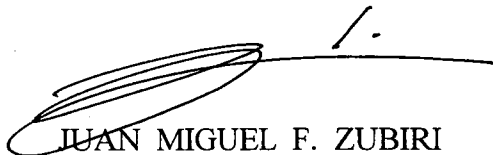
7. Air Transport Agreement between the Republic of the Philippines and the Kingdom of Norway, signed in Oslo on May 8, 1969.

WHEREAS, the continuing mutual cooperation and friendship between the Philippines and Norway have contributed to the promotion of diplomatic relations and growth, especially in the maritime sector, as well as in peace and reconciliation efforts: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the Philippines, To recognize the enduring amity and cooperation between the Republic of the Philippines and the Kingdom of Norway, to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of Philippines-Norway diplomatic relations, and to designate March 2 as a day of commemoration of the diplomatic relations between the two States;

Resolved, finally, That a copy of this Resolution be furnished the Kingdom of Norway and the Embassy of the Kingdom of Norway in the Philippines.

Adopted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'J' followed by a horizontal line and a small flourish.

President of the Senate

This Resolution was adopted by the Senate on
December 6, 2023.



RENATO N. BANTUG Jr.

Secretary of the Senate