

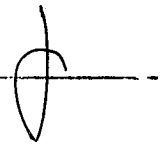
**NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Second Regular Session**

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SENATE

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P. S. Res No. 852

Introduced by SEN. WIN GATCHALIAN

**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**

1 **WHEREAS**, the Republic of the Philippines and the Kingdom of Norway
2 have a long history of cooperation, which has expanded beyond the maritime
3 sector and into the energy sector, extractive industries like oil and gas,
4 aquaculture, IT services, telecommunications, academic exchanges, social
5 security,¹ labor, migration, and peace and reconciliation efforts²;

6
7 **WHEREAS**, the Philippines and Norway established formal diplomatic
8 relations on March 2, 1948, with the Embassy of the Kingdom of Norway being
9 established in Manila in 1967 and the Philippine Embassy in Norway being
10 established in Oslo in 2007;³

11

¹ "Speech of Trade Secretary Alfredo Pascual, Norway-Philippines Energy Conference 'Creating Currents Together' Creating Value Chains for Industries," Department of Trade and Industry, October 18, 2022. Retrieved from <https://www.dti.gov.ph/archives/archived-speeches/trade-secretary-pascual-norway-ph-energy-conference/>. Last accessed on October 25, 2023.

² "Norway and the Philippines," Royal Norwegian Embassy in Manila. Retrieved from <https://www.norway.no/en/philippines/norway-philippines/#:~:text=Norway%20is%20represented%20in%20the,cooperation%20in%20the%20maritime%20sector>. Last accessed on October 25, 2023.

³ "Philippines-Norway Relations", Embassy of the Philippines in Oslo, Norway. Retrieved from <https://web.archive.org/web/20141229061946/http://oslope.dfa.gov.ph/index.php/diplomatic-relations/philippines-norway-relations>. Last accessed on October 25, 2023.

1 **WHEREAS**, Norway has been a long-term partner of the Philippines in
2 the maritime sector, with the maritime cooperation between the two States
3 spanning over 100 years.⁴ Part of the long-standing cooperation between the
4 Philippines and Norway is the establishment of the Norwegian Shipowners'
5 Association (NSA) Cadet program, with the objective of developing Filipino
6 maritime professionals through scholarship grants.⁵ The Norwegian Training
7 Center (NTC) in Manila has produced almost 6,000 cadets and the NSA in Oslo
8 has provided scholarships to Filipinos and employed NTC graduates in
9 Norwegian ships;⁶

10
11 **WHEREAS**, as of October 2022, there are already over 25,000 Filipino
12 seafarers working aboard Norwegian ships or in shipyards, accounting for a
13 third of all seafarers on Norwegian-controlled vessels;⁷

14
15 **WHEREAS**, the Norwegian Maritime Authority continues to assist the
16 Philippine Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) in ensuring that the training
17 and education of Filipino seafarers are in compliance with the International
18 Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watch Keeping for
19 Seafarers;

20
21 **WHEREAS**, the Philippines Norway Business Council (PNBC) has around
22 50 member companies and institutions, with the Embassy of the Kingdom of
23 Norway being a founding member and permanent observer in the PNBC board.
24 Over the years, there has been a growing interest among Norwegian companies
25 in investing in industrial enterprises and in the renewable energy sector in the

⁴ "Creating Currents' in the Energy and Maritime Industry", Royal Norwegian Embassy in Manila. Retrieved from <https://www.norway.no/en/philippines/norway-philippines/news-events/creating-currents-in-the-energy-and-maritime-industry/>. Last accessed on October 25, 2023.

⁵ "About NSA Cadet", Norwegian Training Center. Retrieved from <https://ntcm.com.ph/nsa/>. Last accessed on October 25, 2023.

⁶ Kris Crismundo. "Norway eyes training Filipinos to build up offshore wind workforce", Philippine News Agency, October 17, 2023. Retrieved from <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1211957>. Last accessed on October 25, 2023.

⁷ Joseph Pedrajas. "More opportunities await Filipino seafarers in Norway", Manila Bulletin, June 16, 2023. Retrieved from <https://mb.com.ph/2023/6/16/more-opportunities-await-filipino-seafarers-in-norway>. Last accessed on October 25, 2023.

1 Philippines. The Norwegian Government Pension Fund – Global also holds
2 shares in several Philippine companies;⁸

3
4 **WHEREAS**, as of January 2023, there are almost 28,000 Filipinos living
5 in Norway⁹ and part of its labor workforce. Similarly, a substantial number of
6 Norwegians are living in the Philippines and are engaged in business or doing
7 charitable work;

8
9 **WHEREAS**, Norway is among the eight (8) countries that gave financial
10 contribution to the United Nations Joint Programme on Human Rights
11 developed to implement Human Rights Council Resolution 45/33, which outlines
12 specific areas for capacity-building and technical cooperation for the protection
13 and promotion of human rights in the Philippines;¹⁰

14 **WHEREAS**, Norway continues to support the peace process in the
15 Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) and sits as the
16 Vice-Chair of the Independent Decommissioning Body in charge of post-conflict
17 decommissioning efforts of Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) combatants.¹¹
18 Norway is also the third-party facilitator of peace negotiations between the
19 Philippine Government and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines
20 (NDFP), and has been part of the International Monitoring Team maintaining
21 the ceasefire between the Philippine government and the MILF in Mindanao;¹²

22

⁸ "Norway-Philippine Relations," Royal Norwegian Embassy in Manila. Retrieved from <https://www.norway.no/en/philippines/norway-philippines/norway-philippine-relations/>. Last accessed on October 25, 2023.

⁹ "Immigrant by country," Kommune Profilen. Retrieved from https://www.kommuneprofilen.no/Profil/Befolkning/DinRegion/bef_innvandrere_land_region.aspx. Last accessed on October 25, 2023.

¹⁰ Teresa Debuque. "Eight countries and the EU pledge P220M to support the UN programme on human rights," United Nations Philippines, December 10, 2022. Retrieved from <https://philippines.un.org/en/210791-eight-countries-and-eu-pledge-p220m-support-un-programme-human-rights>. Last accessed on October 25, 2023.

¹¹ Neil Arwin Mercado, "Norway to continue support for peace process in Bangsamoro – envoy," Inquirer, June 15, 2022. Retrieved from <https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1611270/norway-to-continue-support-for-peace-process-in-bangsamoro-envoy>. Last accessed on October 25, 2023.

¹² "Norway supports peace process, takes active role in the decommissioning process," Norway's Consulate Philippines, February 1, 2022. Retrieved from <https://www.norway.ph/news/norway-supports-peace-process-takes-active-role-in-the-decommissioning-process/>. Last accessed on October 25, 2023.

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

- 3 1. Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the European Free Trade
4 Agreement (EFTA) Member States (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway,
5 and Switzerland) and the Philippines, signed in Bern, Switzerland on
6 April 28, 2016;¹³
- 7 2. Agreement on Maritime Transport between the Government of the
8 Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the Kingdom of
9 Norway, signed in Manila on October 22, 1999;¹⁴
- 10 3. Protocol between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines
11 and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway, Amending the
12 Convention for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention
13 of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and on Capital,
14 signed in Manila on May 22, 1989;¹⁵
- 15 4. Convention between the Kingdom of Norway and the Republic of the
16 Philippines for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention
17 of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income and on capital,
18 signed in Manila on July 9, 1987;¹⁶
- 19 5. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the
20 Philippines and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway regarding
21 the development of suitable water power schemes in the electricity
22 supply system in selected areas in the Philippines, signed in Manila
23 on May 15, 1979;¹⁷

¹³ "Philippines-European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Free Trade Agreement (FTA", Department of Trade and Industry. Retrieved from <https://www.dti.gov.ph/philippines-european-free-trade-association-efta-free-trade-agreement-fta/>. Last accessed on October 25, 2023.

¹⁴ "Agreement on maritime transport between the Government of the Kingdom of Norway and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines, Regjeringen. Retrieved from <https://www.regjeringen.no/globalassets/upload/nhd/vedlegg/skipsfartsavtaler/philippines.pdf>. Last accessed on October 25, 2023.

¹⁵ "Philippine Double Taxation Agreements", Bureau of Internal Revenue. Retrieved from <https://www.bir.gov.ph/index.php/international-tax-matters/international-tax-agreements.html>. Last accessed on October 25, 2023.

¹⁶ "Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement between Philippines and Norway". Retrieved from https://www.sas-ph.com/web_documents/Tax-Treaties-philippines-and-Norway.pdf. Last accessed on October 25, 2023.

¹⁷ "Philippine Treaty Series No. 739", Legislative Digital Resources. Retrieved from <https://issuances-library.senate.gov.ph/treaties/philippine-treaty-series-no-739>. Last accessed on October 25, 2023.

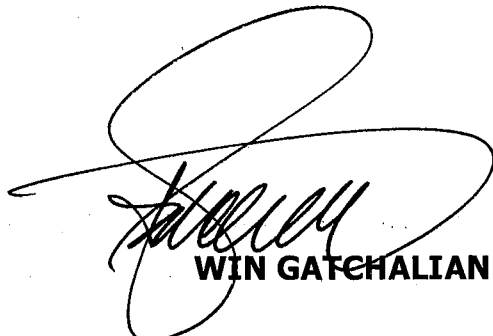
- 1 6. Memorandum of Understanding on trade textiles between the
2 Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government
3 of the Kingdom of Norway, signed in Manila on October 7, 1978;¹⁸
4 and
5 7. Air Transport Agreement between the Republic of the Philippines and
6 the Kingdom of Norway, signed in Oslo on May 8, 1969.¹⁹

7
8 **WHEREAS**, the continuing mutual cooperation and friendship between
9 the Philippines and Norway have contributed to the promotion of diplomatic
10 relations and growth, especially in the maritime sector, as well as in peace and
11 reconciliation efforts;

12
13 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved by the
14 Senate of the Philippines, to recognize the enduring amity and cooperation
15 between the Republic of the Philippines and the Kingdom of Norway, to
16 commemorate the 75th anniversary of Philippines-Norway diplomatic relations,
17 and to designate March 2 as a day of commemoration of the diplomatic relations
18 between the two States;

19
20 **RESOLVED, FINALLY**, that a copy of this Resolution be furnished the
21 Kingdom of Norway and the Embassy of the Kingdom of Norway in the
22 Philippines.

23
24 *Adopted,*



WIN GATCHALIAN

¹⁸ "Philippine Treaty Series No. 719", Legislative Digital Resources. Retrieved from <https://issuances-library.senate.gov.ph/treaties/philippine-treaty-series-no-719>. Last accessed on October 25, 2023.

¹⁹ "Philippine Treaty Series No. 491", Legislative Digital Resources. Retrieved from <https://issuances-library.senate.gov.ph/treaties/philippine-treaty-series-no-491>. Last accessed on October 25, 2023.