

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A BILATERAL CONSULTATION MECHANISM BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC

The Department of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Italian Republic, hereinafter referred to as the “Signatories”.

REFLECTING the desire of both countries to develop and further enhance the friendly relations between both countries;

CONSIDERING that the establishment of periodic consultations and an exchange of ideas on bilateral relations and international matters of mutual interest would be of mutual benefit;

REAFFIRMING their conviction that the further development of friendly relations of cooperation between the two countries will contribute to achievement of peace and mutual understanding in international relations,

Have decided as follows:

Clause 1

The Signatories will conduct periodic consultations at the level of Foreign Ministers, Vice Ministers/Undersecretaries of Foreign Affairs or Senior Officials of the respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs with the aim of reviewing all aspects of their bilateral relationship, exchanging views on bilateral, regional and international affairs of mutual interest, and discussing bilateral cooperation in regional and international matters of common interest.

Clause 2

1. The Signatories will conduct the consultation in the spirit of flexibility and cooperation.
2. The consultations will be held annually or as deemed necessary, alternatively in Italy and in the Philippines. The modalities for consultations, including the determinations of dates, venue, agenda, and level of representation, will be determined by mutual agreement through diplomatic channels.

Clause 3

The Parties will carry out consultations and exchanges of views on matters of common interest, and in particular, but not exclusively, on the following:

1. Bilateral issues, which may include political issues of common interest as well as economic, cultural, scientific, social and educational cooperation and other issues of common interest;