

**STATEMENT OF THE VI SPAIN - PHILIPPINES  
JOINT COMMISSION ON DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION****1. INTRODUCTION**

In accordance with the General Friendship and Cooperation Treaty between the Kingdom of Spain and the Republic of the Philippines signed in Manila on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2000, as well as the Basic Agreement on Technical Cooperation signed by both States on February 20<sup>th</sup>, 1974, the statement of the VI Philippines – Spain Joint Commission on Development Cooperation was signed on March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

The present agreement reflects the principal lines of action which, in the field of cooperation, development and natural disaster risk management, will be implemented by both countries from 2014 to 2017.

On behalf of the Kingdom of Spain, His Excellency José Manuel Garcia-Margallo, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, signed the Agreement.

On behalf of the Republic of the Philippines, Honorable Arsenio M. Balisacan, Socioeconomic Planning Secretary and Director – General of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) signed the Agreement.

The complete list of both the Spanish and the Philippine Delegations is attached as Annex I to this Statement. The meeting was held on this particular date to take advantage of the Official Visit to the Philippines of the Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, His Excellency José Manuel Garcia-Margallo, during which the bilateral political consultations was also held.

The Philippine Delegation warmly welcomed the Spanish Delegation at the start of the meeting. Both Parties agreed to highlight the excellent historical and friendly relations existing between the two countries, which are enhanced by constant dialogue towards more effective development cooperation and intensified bilateral economic relations, including increased Spanish investments in the Philippines.

The Philippine government recognized the significant support provided by AECID to the Philippines in the past years and both Parties manifested satisfaction over the implementation of the agreements under the V Joint Commission signed in 2005.

**2. ACTION FRAMEWORK**

The Philippine Delegation expressed its satisfaction over the decision to make the Philippines a Priority Country under the Spanish Master Plan. This is proof of Spain's confidence in the country's development policies, particularly those defined in the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2011-2016. The PDP describes the framework for the progressive achievement of social, political and economic

development, as well as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), with the main objective of achieving inclusive growth.

The Philippine delegation also conveyed its appreciation for all aid channeled under the framework of the V Joint Commission. In particular, the Philippine delegation was thankful for the humanitarian aid by the Spanish Cooperation and especially by the AECID in response to recurrent emergencies such as the recent disasters caused by the tropical storm Washi, and typhoons Bopha and Haiyan (respectively known as Sendong, Pablo and Yolanda in the Philippines).

The Spanish delegation informed of the new policies of cooperation of the Spanish Government, based on the contents of the new Master Plan of the Spanish Cooperation 2013-2016, and reaffirmed their commitment to develop programs for middle-income countries like the Philippines and to help governments in their fight against poverty and inequality in their respective countries.

The IV Master Plan of the Spanish Cooperation defines the Republic of the Philippines as a "country of association", which gives a more relevant role to the partner country in terms of defining and prioritizing sectors and geographical areas for intervention. This was the basis for the elaboration of the Country Partnership Framework between the Philippines and Spain in a consensual manner.

The Country Partnership Framework document, the synthesis of which is annexed to this Statement (Annex 2), aims to promote the application of the principles contained in the Paris Declaration, the programme of action of Accra and the Alliance of Busan. It reinforces ownership, coordination and harmonization with other donors, promoting policy coherence and improving alignment with the policies of the Philippines.

Both delegations agreed on the main avenues through which the actions of cooperation covered in this statement will be implemented:

- Bilateral cooperation implemented with Spanish funds from the AECID, different Spanish ministries and Spanish regional governments, and channeled through Philippine national government agencies;
- Multilateral cooperation, channeled through agencies of the United Nations system; and
- Cooperation through development NGOs by the partnership of Spanish and Filipino organizations representing the interests of their respective members and social bases.

The progressive implementation of new instruments and lines of development cooperation, such as financial cooperation and program-based aid, in addition to traditional instruments that have been used by the Spanish cooperation (programmes, projects and technical assistance) is of mutual interest. In this regard, corresponding consideration shall be placed on the resources earmarked for reimbursable Spanish aid.

Noting substantial similarities between the Filipino objectives, expressed in the PDP, and the priorities of the Spanish Master Plan, the Philippine side agreed to define the contents of the Country Partnership Framework following the sectoral structure of the Master Plan and referring in each case to the corresponding chapter of the PDP.

Furthermore, both delegations pointed out the need to continue advancing in order to make their cooperation more effective, highlighting the following:

- Cooperation with Spain is important for the Republic of the Philippines given the special links between both countries and the significant contributions of Spain in terms of its experience in the sectors selected jointly; as well as the modernization processes of the Spanish State, its economy and its social policies.
- The Spanish Official Development Assistance (ODA) to the Philippines has been continuously increasing despite the budgetary constraints in the past few years. Some 22.3 M€ and 40.42 M€ were allocated in the III and IV Joint Commissions, respectively. Under the V Joint Commission (2005-2011), Spanish ODA increased provisionally (not taking into account the years 2012 and 2013) to 158 M€ (PhP 9.48 billion at an exchange rate of 1:PhP 60). This is an increase of about 400% with respect to the IV Joint Commission.
- There is a need to move forward in strengthening Good Governance and the Rule of Law and improving the system of prevention and management of natural risks.
- Support to emergency response and the resiliency improvement efforts of the Philippine government needs to continue given the recurring crises caused by natural disasters nationwide.
- Finally, there is a need to strengthen mechanisms for monitoring, evaluation and mutual accountability, as a more effective way to maintain a successful cooperation model.

### **3. FINAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Both parties concluded that the implementation of programmes, projects and actions will be coordinated by the AECID and NEDA, as established in the "General Guidelines and Procedures for the Implementation of the V Joint Commission" which also fully applies to this VI Joint Commission. Thus, in each of the projects, including those from NGO call for proposals and agreements, the existing coordination mechanisms will be continued, including the establishment of Steering Committees chaired by NEDA.

To facilitate the revision of ongoing interventions as well as the selection of new proposals, both Delegations agreed to hold annual portfolio review meetings for the Country Partnership Framework, as well as an intermediary bi-annual meeting for the present Joint Commission.

Aware of the importance of evaluation in improving performance and promoting mutual accountability, both parties were pleased with the increase in the conduct of evaluation during the period of the V Joint Commission. Both parties agreed to promote specific evaluations for the various programs and projects to be charged to the same budget. They also agreed to jointly carry out a mid-term and a final evaluation of the Country Partnership Framework, annexed to this document.

Both Parties are pleased with the cordial and constructive environment of the negotiations, which are manifestations of the excellent cooperation and friendship between the two countries. Likewise, they expressed their confidence that these agreements will contribute to the development of the Philippines and the strengthening of the ties between the governments and peoples of both countries.

In witness whereof, the parties hereby sign this statement in four copies, two copies in Spanish and two copies in English, equally valid.

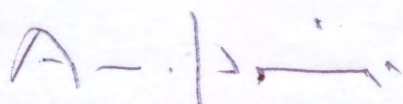
In Manila, on March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014

For the Kingdom of Spain



**JOSE MANUEL GARCIA - MARGALLO**  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and  
Cooperation

For the Republic of the Philippines



**ARSENIO M. BALISACAN**  
Secretary of Socioeconomic Planning  
and Director – General, National  
Economic and Development Authority