

# 2nd Philippines-Netherlands

## Bilateral Consultations

29 June 2021

### Joint Statement

1. The Second Philippines-Netherlands Bilateral Consultations were held on 29 June on virtual mode, hosted by the Philippines.
2. The Meeting, co-chaired by H.E. Jaime Victor B. Ledda, Assistant Secretary for European Affairs, and H.E. Karin Mössenlechner, Director for Asia and Oceania, discussed matters of mutual interest, notably on political and economic cooperation, development cooperation, maritime cooperation, security, and people-to-people linkages.
3. The Meeting marked the celebration this year of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and the Netherlands as a testament to the enduring partnership between the two countries and further strengthening of cooperation on emerging issues. The Meeting noted the schedule of activities to commemorate the Anniversary, including the joint activities by the Embassy of the Philippines in The Hague and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Manila.
4. The Meeting welcomed the accomplishments achieved by both sides since the First Bilateral Consultations held on 30 January 2020 in The Hague. Both parties underscored strong ties between the two countries even during the pandemic, particularly on the repatriation of Filipino seafarers, repatriation flights of Dutch tourists stranded in the Philippines at the onset of the CoVid-19 pandemic, the donation of vaccines by the EU and the Netherlands through the COVAX Facility and vaccination of seafarers aboard Dutch-owned ships.
5. The Meeting welcomed the Netherlands' Indo-Pacific policy paper on cooperation with partners in Asia contained in "Indo-Pacific: Guidelines for strengthening Dutch and EU cooperation with partners in Asia" and the European Council Conclusions on the European Union Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific adopted by the 27 Foreign Ministers of the EU Member States on 19 April 2021, which recognize the region's economic and strategic importance.
6. The Netherlands thanked the Philippines for its reiterated support to its accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC) in Southeast Asia. Both countries look forward to partner in ASEAN on areas that are essential for peace, economic prosperity, and the promotion of democratic values and the rule of law.
7. The Meeting recognized that the Netherlands is one of the consistent top sources of Foreign Direct Investments in the Philippines, and agreed to continue to discuss trade and cooperation matters, such as market access issues, and mechanisms for business-to-business engagements. The two sides will continue to engage in the following sectors: agri-food, water and infrastructure, circular economy, maritime and healthcare under the framework of the 1995 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Economic and Technological Co-operation.

8. The Meeting recognized the importance of implementing measures intended to effectively prevent the unintended use of tax treaties that lead to base erosion and profit shifting. The Philippines conveyed that it is actively taking steps to assess its readiness to implement the four (4) minimum standards of the OECD/G20 Base Erosion and Profit Sharing Project and is seriously considering acceding to the Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty-related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Sharing.
9. The Philippines expressed appreciation for the Netherlands' technical assistance support provided to the Department of Agriculture in establishing the country's pioneering National Seed Technology Park in Clark, Pampanga.
10. The Meeting welcomed the completion of the Manila Bay Sustainable Development Master Plan (MBSDMP), spearheaded by the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), where the Netherlands provided technical expert advice. The Philippines assures the implementation of the plan and welcomes the Netherlands' continuing support to rehabilitate Manila Bay, enhance living conditions of cities and coastal zones around the Bay, and contribute to metro Manila's resiliency in light of the impact of climate change.
11. The Meeting noted the successful conduct of the 21st Joint Committee on Maritime Affairs (JCMA) meeting held on 29 April 2021 and co-chaired by the Philippines Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) of the Department of Transportation and the Netherlands Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management. In this regard, the Meeting looked forward to the implementation of the conclusions of the meeting, notably the vaccination of some 22,000 Filipino seafarers aboard Dutch-owned vessels and the application of systems of efficient crew change amid the COVID-19 pandemic to guarantee continuous trade flow and delivery of essential goods such as medical supplies and equipment.
12. The Meeting welcomed the establishment of the Honorary Consulate of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Davao City.
13. The Meeting agreed that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Bilateral Consultations will be hosted by the Netherlands in 2022.

Manila, Philippines  
29 June 2021