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Philippines-Spain Country Partnership Framework for Development Cooperation (CPF)

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Contribute to the consolidation of a more efficient democratic state that guarantees peace, justice, equity and the construction of a society resilient to the adverse effects of climate change and natural hazards.45

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GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AECID	Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation
AESIA	Spanish Agency for the Supervision of Artificial Intelligence (Spanish: Agencia Española de Supervisión de la Inteligencia Artificial, AESIA)
ODA	Official Development Assistance
BARMM	Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao
BIFF	Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters
WB	World Bank
CCAM	Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation
CHR	Commission on Human Rights
COA	Commission on Audit
CPF	Country Partnership Framework
CPP	Communist Party of the Philippines
DBM	Department of Budget and Management
DGPOLDES	Directorate General for Sustainable Development Policies
DHSUD	Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development
DILG	Department of the Interior and Local Government
DoF	Department of Finance
DoH	Department of Health
DoE	Department of Energy
DRRM	Disaster Risk Reduction Management
FONPRODE	Development Promotion Fund
EU	European Union
GAD	Gender and Development
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEC	Coordination Group
HCT	Humanitarian Country Team
LFS	Labor Force Survey
LGC	Local Government Code
LGU	Local Government Units
CPF	Country Partnership Framework
MILF	Moro Islamic Liberation Front

MNLF	Moro National Liberation Front
NAP-PCVE	National Action Plan to Prevent and Counter Violent Extremism
NAP	National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security
NDF	National Democratic Front
NDHS	National Demography and Health Survey
NEDA	National Economic and Development Authority
NHA	National Housing Authority
NPA	New People's Army
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OPAPRU	Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity
OCE	Spanish Cooperation Office
PDP	Philippines Development Plan
PHA	Philippines Health Agenda
PSA	Philippines Statistics Authority (PSA)
GNI	Gross National Income
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SECI	State Secretariat for International Cooperation
SER	Socioeconomic Report of the Philippines
SUBATRA	Support to Bangsamoro Transition

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The **Philippines-Spain Country Partnership Framework (CPF)** embodies a strategic and collaborative approach to guide Spanish Cooperation initiatives within the country. Crafted in consultation with Philippine authorities, Spanish Cooperation stakeholders, and partners, this framework sets the priorities and standards for cooperation over the coming years. It represents a shared commitment to fostering sustainable development, bolstering democratic institutions, and fortifying resilience against the adverse impacts of climate change and disasters and natural hazards.

The relationship between the Republic of the Philippines and Spain is deeply rooted in centuries of shared history and cultural ties. Over the years, both countries have worked to strengthen their diplomatic and economic collaboration. Spain has recognized the Philippines as an important partner in Southeast Asia, while the Philippines values Spain's expertise, experience, and support in various sectors. Over the years, the governments of the Philippines and Spain have increasingly sought ways to enhance their cooperation in areas of mutual interest such as good governance, gender equality, social cohesion and peacebuilding.

In a historic bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations-European Union (ASEAN-EU) Commemorative Summit in Brussels, Belgium last December 2022, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and Spain President Pedro Sánchez Pérez-Castejón committed to strengthen the relations of Spain and the Philippines. Being designated as a priority country, the Philippines holds a distinct position in shaping and prioritizing the sectors and geographical areas for intervention, emphasizing its elevated significance.

In the 2025-2028 period, the Spanish Cooperation will direct its efforts towards three Development Results aligned with the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028 as well as with the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 1, 5, 6, 7, 8 10, 13, 16.

The CPF Philippines-Spain 2025-2028 aims to contribute to consolidating a more efficient democratic state, ensuring peace, justice, equity, and resilience in the face of environmental challenges. It envisions a future where governance is transparent, institutions are robust, and communities are empowered to thrive despite

adversities. Thereby, the actions taken by the Spanish Cooperation will be directed to achieving the following development results:

Fostering Peaceful Coexistence and Human Rights: The CPF prioritizes efforts to enhance peaceful coexistence, foster respect for human rights, and improve access to justice for vulnerable populations in targeted territories across the Philippines. By strengthening institutions and promoting social cohesion, this result endeavors to mitigate conflicts, uphold fundamental rights, and foster an environment of inclusivity and mutual respect.

Promoting Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Development: Another critical focus of the CPF is promoting inclusive, sustainable, and climate-resilient economic development. Through participatory national and local policies aimed at poverty reduction, this result seeks to empower communities, foster economic growth, and build resilience against the impacts of climate change. By integrating sustainability principles into economic policies and practices, the CPF aims to create opportunities for all segments of society with the aim to have no one left behind.

Empowering Women, Youth, and Indigenous Communities: Additionally, the CPF aims to increase the participation of women, youth, and indigenous communities in political and economic spheres. This result empowers marginalized groups, particularly indigenous women and youth in the most disadvantaged regions, by strengthening governance structures and promoting inclusive decision-making processes. The CPF endeavors to create pathways for greater participation, representation, and leadership through targeted interventions and capacity-building initiatives, ultimately fostering a more inclusive and equitable society.

The CPF sets the stage for the enhanced partnership in technical cooperation between the Philippines and Spain. By building upon their historical ties and recognizing their mutual interests, both countries can forge a solid and fruitful collaboration that paves the way for sustainable development, innovation, and progress in the years to come. As the world becomes increasingly interconnected, the strategic alliance between the Philippines and Spain holds immense potential to create a positive impact not only bilaterally but also across the globe.

BASIS FOR PARTNERSHIP

1.1 Background of the Philippines and Spanish Cooperation

The CPF puts into practice the mission of the Spanish Cooperation: to favor and stimulate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through the financing instruments for sustainable development in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda¹ and in this way, contribute to eradicating poverty in its multiple dimensions, building the resilience of individuals and communities, reducing inequalities and all forms of discrimination, and defending and promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms, with special emphasis on gender equality and initiatives to address climate change, as priority cross-cutting elements of the Spanish Cooperation and plans of the partner country.

The CPF is supported by the signing of the VII Joint Commission Meeting, providing both regulatory and political backing. The Basic Agreement on Technical Cooperation between Spain and the Philippines of 20 February 1974 underpins the Joint Commission meetings. The first Joint Commission Meeting was held on 23 November 1990, and the last one, the sixth, on 24 March 2014. The latter incorporated the Country Partnership Framework (CPF) for the period 2014-2017, which was extended via a Note Verbale.

Non-reimbursable funding to the country in the previous CPF (2014-2022) was around €54 million (with an annual average of €6 million) and concentrated predominantly on peacebuilding, human rights, risk management and climate change adaptation, with a clear gender focus.

The Philippines is one of the world's fastest-growing emerging markets. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Philippines' economy is projected to be the world's 32nd largest by nominal GDP in 2024, with an estimated GDP of \$471.5 billion. The country has maintained an impressive growth rate, averaging around 6% annually since 2010, despite the setback caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The pandemic severely impacted economic growth, with the economy contracting by 9.5% in 2020 according to the World Bank. However, the Philippines demonstrated a strong recovery with its gross domestic product (GDP) expanded by 5.7 percent in the first quarter of 2024, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority. This recovery signals a return to pre-pandemic growth trajectories and reflects the country's potential to achieve upper-middle-income status in the near future. Global credit watcher Fitch Ratings expects the Philippine economy to grow by 6.4 percent in 2024.

These recent economic performances highlight the resilience and dynamism of the Philippine economy, underscoring its position as a key player in the global market. The continued focus on structural reforms, investment in infrastructure, and fostering an inclusive economic environment will be crucial in sustaining this growth momentum and addressing the disparities across different regions and socioeconomic classes within the country.

Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028

In December of 2022, the Filipino government approved and published the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028 (PDP 23-28) which aims to transform economic and social sectors and institutions for a prosperous, inclusive, and resilient society. It provides an outline of priority actions for the national government in terms of economic and social development, so the Philippines can 'build back better and more'. There are strong commonalities between these strategies and the Spanish Cooperation's work in recent years.

The coordination mechanisms for monitoring the PDP and economic and social development policies have traditionally been articulated around the **Philippine Development Forum (PDF)**. In January 2023, the current administration organized the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2023 - 2028 Forum presenting the blueprint of the government to address medium and long-term issues to growth and constraints through actionable policies and programs, as well as legislative priorities.

The country currently has and continues to develop sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, strategies and

¹The Addis Ababa Action Agenda provides a new global framework for financing sustainable development by aligning all financing flows and policies with economic, social and environmental priorities. It is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements the achievement of all 17 Sustainable Development

Goals (SDGs), and helps to contextualize its means of implementation with concrete policies and actions. Access here: <https://sdgs.un.org/publications/3rd-international-conference-financing-development-18042>

frameworks that aid in the implementation of PDP priorities. To wit, the Philippines has the Health Sector Strategy; Basic Education Development Plan; Social Protection Plan; National Employment and Recovery Strategy; Philippine Action Plan for Sustainable Consumption and Production; National Innovation Agenda and Strategy Document; and national action plans on Mainstreaming Fair and Ethical Recruitment and on Sustainable, Gender-Responsive Return and Reintegration among several others.

The Philippines and the SDGs

The Philippines has been actively committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development since its adoption in 2015. The government, in partnership with various stakeholders, has introduced policies and programs to accelerate progress across different SDGs— Several SDGs have shown considerable progress, with notable improvements in areas such as access to education, poverty reduction, gender equality, and renewable energy adoption.

On 12 July 2022, during the United Nations Economic and Social Council High-Level Political Forum, the country showcased its third Voluntary National Review (VNR), emphasizing its advancements in five specific Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These included SDG 4: Quality Education, SDG 5: Gender Equality, SDG 14: Life Below Water, SDG 15: Life on Land, and SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals, underscoring the Philippines' commitment and progress in these key areas.

The government contends that the Philippine's long-term vision, *AmBisyon Natin 2040*, which necessitates inter-generational equity, is consistent with the core

principles of the SDGs of sustainable development and leaving no one behind. From policy to action, the PDP reflects all of the 17 SDGs. The integration of the SDGs in the PDP is considered essential, as this document serves as a guide to the national budget planning and appropriations (which goes through Congressional Budget Hearings). The implementation strategies required to achieve the SDGs which are found in the PDP and the subsequent sectoral plans are mainstreamed and localized through the Regional Development Plans (RDP) and Comprehensive Development Plans (CDP) at the regional and local level. The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) takes the lead in localizing the SDGs. In November 26, 2018, Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) 1 s. 2018 was signed between the Department of the Interior and Local Government and NEDA entitled "[Guidelines on the Localization of the Philippine Development Plan \(PDP\) 2017-2022 Results Matrices and the Sustainable Development Goals](#)".

The **principles of ownership, alignment and harmonization will continue to be emphasized in the new CPF**. Drawing lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, the CPF incorporates improvements in substantive policies for human development, poverty reduction, governance and sustainability initiatives. Priority will be given to the transfer of knowledge and the strengthening of local leadership through the promotion of their participation, especially that of women, youth and indigenous peoples in the different phases of the projects and the processes they promote. At the **sectoral level, national and** local governance will be strengthened by applying a holistic rights-based approach, with a special emphasis on access to justice, natural and human-induced disaster risk management, and gender and development.

1.2 Country context

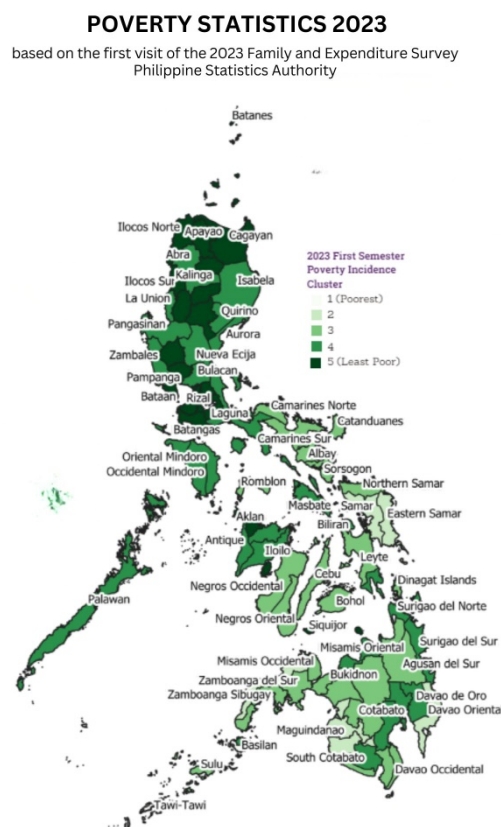
The Philippines is an archipelago situated in Southeast Asia with over 7,600 islands, with only about 2,000 islands inhabited. The country is ethnically diverse with a young and rapidly urbanizing population. More than half of the population of 110 million is under the age of 25 years. Moreover, the country has a very high population density (363 inhabitants/km²), high cultural diversity and high disparities in population and income distribution (US\$3,460.5 per capita in 2021). Regional and ethno-religious disparities in per capita income are very pronounced. Fifty-four per cent of its population is concentrated in large coastal cities.

The Philippines is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world. Located along the Pacific ring of fire, the Philippines is highly susceptible to seismic and volcanic risks. The country is also subject to the world record of typhoons every year. Climate change and pandemics are exacerbating those risks.

The Philippines is ranked 98th in the 2023 Sustainable Development Report² with a score of 67.14 percentage in SDG achievement. **Improvements have been made in both health and education.** However, gaps remain in water and sanitation and in the control of preventable diseases such as tuberculosis, measles and polio, being even more evident and acute by the pandemic. Moreover, conflict has been a longstanding feature of the Philippines, with two long-running insurgencies, and a number of other types of conflict and violence.

Economic growth has remained at around 6% in the last decade due to a significant boost from construction and the services sector (the Philippines is one of the first providers of Business Process Outsourcing). Remittances from overseas Filipino workers account for 9.3% of GDP. The Philippine' economy has been hit hard in 2020 by the COVID 19 pandemic, which will negatively affect expectations for poverty reduction, as well as those related to its upcoming graduation as an upper-middle-income country. The number of unemployed persons aged 15 and above reached two million in March 2024 as reported by the Philippine Statistics Authority. The unemployment rate in the Philippines was estimated at 3.9 percent in March 2024, marking a decrease from 4.7 percent recorded in March 2023.

This gradual reduction in the unemployment rate is complemented by a decline in underemployment, which has also fallen by a few percentage points.



These improvements indicate a positive trend in the labor market, reflecting the country's ongoing economic recovery and growth.

According to the Bureau of the Treasury, the Philippines' outstanding debt reached a record high of P15.18 trillion as of the end of February 2024. This increase was driven by domestic debt issuances and the depreciation of the peso against the US dollar, as the government borrowed to fund its budget deficit. In addition, the Philippines fell to 59th out of 64 economies in IMD's 2023 World Digital Competitiveness Ranking, scoring 48.31. This was the country's lowest ranking since the index began in 2017.

The pandemic also emphasized important connectivity limitations that pose a challenge for the development of e-learning and a digital economy similar to those of the neighboring countries.

In the realm of digital competitiveness, the Philippines experienced a notable decline in the 2023 IMD World Digital Competitiveness Ranking. The country dropped three places, ranking 59th out of 64 economies. This marks its lowest position since the index began in 2017. The decline is primarily due to weaknesses in areas such

² <https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/profiles/philippines>

as talent development, training and education, and the regulatory framework. This ranking reflects the country's struggles in keeping pace with its ASEAN peers, as it falls behind regional leaders like Singapore, South Korea, and Taiwan. The Philippines ranked particularly low in the knowledge factor, indicating significant challenges in human capital development and technological readiness.

To improve its position, the Philippines needs to focus on enhancing its regulatory environment to support innovation, investing in education and training to boost talent, and strengthening its technological infrastructure. Addressing these areas will be crucial for the country to improve its digital competitiveness and leverage technology for economic growth and social transformation.

As of April 2024, the Philippines' inflation rate stood at 3.8%, up from 3.7% in March 2024. This marks the third consecutive month of rising inflation, driven mainly by higher costs for food and non-alcoholic beverages, which increased by 6.0% in April, and transportation, which saw a rise to 2.6% from 2.1% in March.

On May 26, 2023, President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. issued Executive Order No. 28, creating the Inter-Agency Committee on Inflation and Market Outlook (IAC-IMO) to serve as an advisory body to the Economic Development Group (EDG) on measures that would keep inflation with the government's target range. In support to its mandate, the IAC-IMO closely monitors the main drivers of inflation, conducts ex-ante supply-demand analysis for essential commodities, and provides timely recommendations on interventions to curb price spikes and promote food security, among others.

A high level of exposure to disasters and armed conflicts of a political or religious nature in different parts of its territory accentuate the fragility of the country's achievements. The Philippines is recognized as one of the world's biodiversity hotspots, with unique ecosystems and diverse marine life. Climate change threatens these ecosystems through habitat degradation, altered ocean acidity, and coral bleaching. Loss of biodiversity affects the livelihoods of communities dependent on ecosystem services. The Philippines heavily relies on agriculture, which is highly sensitive to changing climate conditions. Smallholder

farmers, who constitute a significant portion of the population, are particularly vulnerable.

Moreover, poverty, inequality, vulnerability and armed conflict particularly affect the country's large and diverse indigenous population and its women. Addressing the vulnerabilities of the Philippines to climate change necessitates integrated strategies that encompass disaster risk reduction, sustainable development, poverty alleviation, gender mainstreaming and supporting peacebuilding.

It is hoped that the country's macroeconomic robustness will allow it to return to the pre-COVID- 19 economic growth path in the short term. Nevertheless, there is a risk of further setbacks in areas such as environmental issues, conflicts, the shadow economy, human trafficking and malnutrition.

The challenges to provide safety and basic services is also identified as a risk factor contributing to persisting situations of poverty, violence or instability. It is, therefore, recommended to consider strengthening governance in a transversal manner in the projects.

Considering the country's condition, it is important to work across the board to strengthen the country's resilience and support it in preventing and managing disaster risk reduction, areas in which Spanish Cooperation has accumulated significant experience.

National Agencies

National governance and the active involvement of relevant national agencies are paramount for the successful implementation of the CPF between the Philippines and Spain. Effective governance ensures that the strategies and goals outlined in the agreement align with the country's overall development agenda and priorities. National agencies play an important role in executing, monitoring, and coordinating projects and initiatives within their respective domains. Their expertise, understanding of local contexts, and established networks are critical for the efficient utilization of funding, allowing for targeted interventions and resource allocation. Furthermore, collaboration and coordination among these agencies are essential for avoiding duplication of efforts, enhancing synergies, and maximizing the impact of the partnership. By empowering national agencies and fostering strong

governance mechanisms, the agreement can be efficiently translated into concrete actions, fostering sustainable development and benefiting the people of the Philippines.

Local government

The importance of **local government units** in national development in the context of Philippine and Spain relations, with Spain providing funding for local capacities, cannot be overstated. Local governments serve as critical agents of change at the grassroots level, and Spain's support amplifies their impact. Through strategic investments, capacity-building, and collaboration, Spain contributes significantly to the development of the Philippines while strengthening the ties between the two nations. This partnership demonstrates the value of international cooperation in achieving sustainable and inclusive development goals.

In the Philippines, local government units are indispensable to national development, shouldering vital responsibilities in service delivery, resource management, and economic growth. Moreover, their engagement with international partners fosters global cooperation, secures resources, and addresses pressing global issues. These interactions at the local level contribute significantly to the overall development and global connectedness of the nation, reflecting the Philippines' commitment to a decentralized and inclusive approach to governance.

The difficulties implicit in an archipelagic country with mountainous areas covering more than 60 per cent of the territory, reveal the importance of strengthening local governance. Local governments (LGUs) manage important resources (and will do so even more in the future), making them key actors in promoting local development. Spain recognizes that effective local governance is crucial for sustainable development. By providing funding and technical assistance to LGUs, it helps strengthen local decision-making processes. This empowers LGUs to better respond to the unique needs of their communities, ensuring that development initiatives are relevant and effective. Spain's support over the years includes capacity-building programs for LGUs and connected agencies in the Philippines. This

involves training and technical assistance to improve their skills in project planning, financial management, and policy implementation. Strengthening the capabilities of LGUs enhances their ability to manage funds efficiently and implement development projects effectively. Moreover, the cooperation in the Philippines prioritizes poverty reduction and inclusive growth. Technical cooperation works with LGUs to design and implement programs that target vulnerable populations, providing them with livelihood opportunities, training, and access to social services. These efforts directly contribute to poverty alleviation and economic empowerment at the local level.

Given the Philippines' vulnerability to natural disasters, Spain also supports disaster risk reduction and resilience-building programs. Local governments play a crucial role in disaster preparedness, emergency and humanitarian response. Spain's assistance helps develop disaster management plans, conduct training, and acquire necessary equipment to save lives and reduce harmful impacts.

Education

While commendable strides have been taken to enhance accessibility to education, the Philippines faces challenges in terms of ensuring the quality of its educational system. With a high learning poverty rate of 90.9%, the lowest in ASEAN, the country has consistently underperformed in international assessments such as PISA 2018 and TIMSS 2019, ranking last in reading and lower in science and mathematics. Additionally, the SEA-PLM 2019 results placed the Philippines in the bottom half among six ASEAN participants.

In disaster or conflict areas, schools are particularly affected. The gaps in education became even more pronounced at the onslaught of the pandemic. More than one million students did not go to school.³ Due to the closure of schools for the 2020-2021 school year, the future impact on education, considering the significant connectivity constraints, undoubtedly poses a challenge for the development of e-learning in rural areas. Malnutrition also hinders learning with 1 out of 3 Filipino children under 5 undernourished.⁴

To address the dilemmas in education, the Second Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM II) is currently active - a national Commission created through

³ Department of Education Report, 2021

⁴ Food and Nutrition Research Institute Report 2019, Department of Science and Technology, Republic of the Philippines

Republic Act 11899, tasked to undertake a comprehensive national assessment and evaluation of the performance of the Philippine education sector. It is composed of lawmakers from both the Senate and House of Representatives, and is guided by an Advisory Council, and assisted by the Technical Secretariat.

By recognizing and addressing these critical areas, the Philippines is taking important steps to improve its education ecosystem and unlock the potentials of its next generation.

Women and Gender Equality

The Philippines records significant progress in gender equality ranking number 16 in the 2023 Global Gender Gap Report of the World Economic Forum (WEF). The Philippines scored best in educational attainment with a score of 0.999, while it fared worst in political empowerment, with a score of 0.409. The Philippines scored 0.968 in health and survival, and 0.789 for economic participation and opportunity. While the increased representation of women in the cabinet is a positive development, the disparity in the proportion of female lawmakers is a significant cause for concern. Moreover, despite ranking with the highest parity in senior officers and technical employees, the WEF found that women earn only 71.6 percent compared to men's income showing a considerable wage gap issue.

The Philippine government has enacted several laws and policies to promote gender equality, including the Magna Carta of Women (MCW) or Republic Act 9710, which seeks to eliminate discrimination against women and ensure their empowerment. Additionally, the Gender and Development (GAD) budget policy allocates funds for gender-responsive programs and projects.

Indigenous People

The Philippines is a culturally diverse country with an estimated 14- 17 million Indigenous Peoples (IPs) belonging to 110 ethno-linguistic groups. The Philippine Constitution, in recognition of this diversity and under the framework of national unity and development, mandates state recognition, protection, promotion, and fulfillment of the rights of Indigenous Peoples. Further, Republic Act 8371, also known as the "Indigenous Peoples Rights Act" (1997, IPRA), recognized the right of IPs to manage their

ancestral domains; it has become the cornerstone of current national policy on IPs. Moreover, the MCW mandates the recognition and preservation of the cultural identity and integrity of indigenous peoples, and that these rights should be regarded in national policy formulation and implementation, given that these cultural systems and practices are not discriminatory towards women.

Poverty, inequality, vulnerability and armed conflict particularly affect the country's large and diverse indigenous population and its women. While there have been strides to address these issues, the region needs improved social and institutional structures for preventing and resolving these conflicts.

Youth

In the Philippines, young individuals aged 10-24 make up 28 percent of the nation's population, totaling 30 million. By focusing on crafting policies and making investments that cater to the youth's future, the Philippines could capitalize on the economic growth potential due to the youth demographic.

As of 2022, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) reported a total of 31,407,109 Filipino youth with ages 15-30 years old. Of this number, 51.25% are males and 48.75% females. A further breakdown of ages shows the following distribution: - 20.07% child youth, 44.20% core youth, and 35.74% adult youth.

In the 2023 edition of the Youth Progress Index (YPI) presented by the Social Progress Imperative and the European Youth Forum, the Philippines ranked 77th among 153 countries. This index evaluates nations on the quality of life for young individuals, examining three critical areas: basic human needs, well-being foundations, and opportunities available to the youth.

Three-fourths of Filipino youth aged 15 to 30 are optimistic that their quality of life will improve over the next five years despite the pandemic, according to a national survey conducted in 2021 by Youth Leadership for Democracy (YouthLed) and Social Weather Stations (SWS).

To ensure efforts for young people in the country, the National Youth Commission crafted the National Framework for Youth Development - now known as the Philippine Youth Development Plan (PYDP) 2023-2028 – also anchored on the Philippine Development Plan (PDP),

the *AmBisyon Natin 2040*, and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which is a comprehensive roadmap for enabling Filipino youth to participate actively in the country's social, economic, and political development.

Challenges impacting the Filipino youth, including adolescent pregnancies, HIV, early marriage, and gender-based violence (GBV), particularly in humanitarian crises, highlight the urgency of addressing youth-specific issues. Consequently, the youth is one of the central foci within this Spain-Philippine Country Partnership Framework. Recognizing the unique vulnerabilities and potential of young people, prioritizing their needs and rights can lead to better communities. Addressing these challenges head-on not only safeguards the well-being and rights of young individuals but also unlocks their potential as drivers of social, economic, and cultural development. Therefore, including youth-focused strategies within the partnership framework can significantly contribute to achieving the goals for the Philippines with the support of Spanish Cooperation.

Human Rights

The Philippine government is committed to improving the overall human rights situation and, according to a UN report⁵, has taken some initiatives to advance accountability for human rights violations and abuses. The report highlights the government's cooperation with the UN human rights mechanisms through an innovative joint program that includes technical assistance and capacity-building in several key areas, such as domestic investigative measures and engagement with civil society. While challenges remain, particularly regarding access to justice for victims, there is a hopeful outlook as these initiatives are steps toward broader reforms and improved human rights conditions.

The Philippine government has taken on the challenge of UN Human Rights Council Resolution No. 45/33 (adopted on 07 October 2020), which identified six key areas for the provision of UN expertise in a manner of consultative partnership: 1) strengthening domestic investigation and accountability mechanisms; 2) improved data-gathering on alleged human rights violations by police personnel; 3) expanding civil space and engagement with civil society and national human rights institutions; 4) strengthening the PH's national mechanism for reporting and follow-up

vis-a-vis human rights; 5) implementing a human rights-based approach towards drug control; and 6) implementing a human rights-based approach towards counter-terrorism. In this connection, the Government of the Philippines and the United Nations (UN) has committed to the first-ever national-level UN joint program on human rights implementing capacity-building and technical cooperation programs in the identified areas.

The Philippines has an independent National Human Rights Institution (NHRI), the Commission on Human Rights (CHR), created under the 1987 Philippine Constitution, established on 05 May 1987 by virtue of Executive Order No. 163. The Commission is mandated to conduct investigations on human rights violations against marginalized and vulnerable sectors of the society, involving civil and political rights.

Moreover, the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines has also been designated as the Gender and Development Ombud (Gender Ombud) regularly participates in the sectoral monitoring and forwarding of policy recommendations to key government agencies to address the problems of indigenous peoples, particularly indigenous women and children, in the best possible manner.

Spanish cooperation support has been aimed at strengthening the rule of law, promoting respect for human rights, and enhancing the capacity of Philippine institutions to address legal and human rights challenges. Spanish funding has also been channeled towards supporting civil society organizations in the Philippines that work on human rights advocacy, protection of vulnerable populations, and access to justice initiatives.

AECID has supported the strengthening of the CHR and the Regional Human Rights Commission of the Autonomous Region of Mindanao Muslim (RHRC), as well as the multiple civil society organizations that support both commissions in the performance of their mandate.

Peacebuilding and Conflict Analysis

The Philippines suffers from armed conflicts of a political or religious nature in different parts of its territory – in Mindanao involving the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and a countrywide communist insurgency with the

⁵ United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. (2022). *Implementation of Human Rights Council Resolution 45/33 and*

Progress in Technical Cooperation and Capacity-building (A/HRC/51/58).

National Democratic Front (NDF).

Peace agreements with Muslim organizations have led to the adoption of the Bangsamoro Organic Law and the creation of the self-governing Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. The Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) was established as a significant phase of the MILF and government collaboration through the ratification of Republic Act 11054 or the Bangsamoro Organic Law. BARMM has expanded its territory to include Cotabato City, 63 barangays in North Cotabato, and the provinces of Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Basilan, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi, which were previously part of the now-defunct Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. The agreement also encompasses transitional justice and reconciliation as integral aspects of the annex on normalization, along with the commitment to decommission the 40,000 MILF troops, transform six MILF camps into communities, and disband private armed groups.

Meanwhile, the conflict between the Government of the Philippines and the NDF began in 1968 and since then has caused immense unrest for the civilian population and claimed more than 40,000 lives. Moreover, the prevalence of local conflicts or “rido” or clan wars whose nature are sporadic yet last for generations, often becoming flashpoints between the state and revolutionary armed groups.

In 2019, the Philippines officially ratified the National Action Plan for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (NAP PCVE). Its goal will be to provide a comprehensive approach to addressing terrorism and violent extremism in the Philippines, engaging a wide range of stakeholders including communities, schools, and social media groups, and led by the DILG with other government agencies.

The Philippines has its 2023-2033 National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (NAPWPS) which adopts a whole-of-nation approach and aims to strengthen government collaboration with civil society organizations, ensuring its effective implementation into meaningful impacts on the lives of women in all their diverse and intersecting identities, especially those in conflict-affected and vulnerable areas.

Indeed, addressing the conflicts and insurgencies in the Philippines require a comprehensive and multi-faceted approach that considers both the political and socio-economic dimensions of the issues. Enhancing the capacity of the justice system and human rights body which will help build trust in the government's

commitment to justice and accountability are some of the areas where the Spanish Technical Cooperation has provided support in the past. Further, it is important to continue to provide support and empowerment of local communities in conflict-affected areas to take part in peacebuilding initiatives. Community-driven efforts, such as those initiated by Spanish NGOs and local civil society can help address underlying grievances and foster reconciliation.

Improving the peace and conflict situation of the country is a complex task and requires a sustained and collaborative effort from all stakeholders involved. The resolution of these conflicts and related problems will take time and perseverance. Nevertheless, a commitment to peace and reconciliation is crucial to achieve lasting stability in the Philippines.

Spanish Cooperation is committed to supporting the peace process in communities affected by armed conflict. This commitment involves integrating a peacebuilding and development approach into local government functions to enhance planning, monitoring, and evaluation with a sensitivity to peace and conflict. AECID is working in collaboration with the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity (OPAPRU) to improve access to vital health and education services, develop critical economic infrastructure like roads and warehouses, and promote livelihood projects. Moreover, AECID is dedicated to creating open and inclusive societies by engaging with local civil society organizations and Spanish NGOs. This engagement aims to facilitate educational and cultural activities that promote dialogue among diverse linguistic and cultural groups, alongside providing training in negotiation and mediation skills to empower community leaders and further the peacebuilding process.

Climate Change

The Philippines, as an archipelago, makes it highly susceptible to rising sea levels and associated coastal inundation. Low-lying coastal areas, which are densely populated and crucial for economic activities, are particularly at risk. Storm surges and typhoons are frequent occurrences, causing extensive damage to infrastructure and displacing communities. The government is implementing various programs to enhance climate resilience, including climate-resilient agriculture, sustainable land management, and disaster-resilient infrastructure development. These efforts aim to minimize climate-related risks and build adaptive

capacities at local and national levels.

The country experiences an increasing frequency and intensity of typhoons, floods, landslides, and droughts due to climate change. These events disrupt livelihoods, damage critical infrastructure, and jeopardize food and water security. Vulnerable communities, often located in hazard-prone regions, bear the brunt of these disasters.

The PDP integrates climate change adaptation and mitigation into the country's long-term development goals. It aims to foster sustainable growth while reducing vulnerability to climate impacts by mainstreaming climate actions across sectors. Moreover, the National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) outlines the Philippines' strategy to address climate change, focusing on adaptation, mitigation, and disaster risk reduction. It emphasizes sectoral approaches to integrate climate considerations into policies and actions across various government agencies. The NCCAP aims to enhance adaptive capacity and resilience of communities and natural ecosystems to climate change, adopts the total economic valuation of natural resources while ensuring biodiversity conservation, and recognizes the competitive advantage of putting value on the direct use, indirect use, option to use and non-use of environment and natural resources, as a short to long-term sustainable development goal. The Plan prioritizes the creation of green and eco-jobs and sustainable consumption and production. It also focuses on the development of sustainable cities and municipalities.

The Philippines is actively promoting renewable energy development, such as solar, wind, and hydropower projects, to diversify its energy mix and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Incentives and feed-in tariffs

are provided to encourage private investments in renewable energy projects. In this connection, the National Renewable Energy Program (NREP) seeks to promote renewable energy technologies and reduce the country's dependence on fossil fuels. It includes targets for renewable energy capacity development and policy incentives to attract investments in the renewable energy sector. Further, in consonance with the Low Emission Development Strategy (LEDS) the country has outlined its path towards low-emission development by setting targets for emissions reduction across various sectors. The plan includes sustainable transport initiatives, energy efficiency measures, and reforestation efforts to achieve its mitigation goals. To achieve these aims, the Philippines is engaging in partnerships with international entities to access climate finance for adaptation and mitigation projects.

Nevertheless, the Philippines faces challenges in securing adequate funding and resources to implement climate adaptation and mitigation projects effectively. The need for increased financial support and investments remains critical to achieving sustainability goals. Moreover, despite existing policies and plans, effective implementation and coordination across various government agencies remain a challenge. Strengthening inter-agency collaboration and streamlining efforts to achieve common climate objectives is essential. Addressing these challenges requires a multi-stakeholder approach, increased international cooperation and support, enhanced policy coherence, and a concerted effort to mobilize financial resources for climate actions.

1.3 Situation of Spanish Cooperation in the Philippines

Role of International Cooperation in the Philippines

International cooperation holds a pivotal and multifaceted role in propelling the Philippines towards comprehensive development across key domains. Its influence extends significantly, encompassing vital areas such as bolstering economic expansion, alleviating poverty, fortifying disaster responsiveness, enhancing healthcare and education systems, and fortifying environmental sustainability actions. The Philippines has been a recipient of substantial international aid, diverse funding sources, and invaluable technical guidance, facilitated by a consortium of nations and global organizations. The collaboration of funding actors addresses the nation's complex development hurdles while concurrently fostering tangible strides towards the attainment of its economic and developmental goals.

European Cooperation in the Philippines

The European Union's commitment to the Philippines is profoundly concentrated on several pivotal fronts: governance enhancement, catalyzing robust job creation, propelling the renewable energy sector, and providing crucial aid to the most vulnerable sectors of society. A laser focus on Mindanao, a region ensnared in the clutches of dire poverty, compounded by persistent conflicts and population upheavals, underscores the EU's support. Most of the EU funds are given as grants making the EU jointly with the EU Member States, the largest grant donor in the Philippines.

EU development assistance is closely aligned with the PDP. The Plan provides a framework that allows the EU to align its development cooperation programs with Government policies and programs with clear leadership and ownership on the part of the Philippine authorities.

In December 2021, the EU approved its Multiannual Indicative Program for the Philippines for 2021-2027. The document allocates EUR 147 million to fund programs in two main areas of intervention: Resilient Green Economy and Green Jobs, and Peaceful and Just Society and Good Governance. With this cooperation strategy, the EU gives continuity to its already long-term engagement in the Philippines on Governance and Peace initiatives, but also chooses to support the country in its strategic decision to move towards more a more environmentally-sustainable

and resilience-oriented economic development, which is indeed in line with the EU's own priority to address the environmental challenges our world is facing.

One strong example of the EU and Spain's collaboration in the Philippines is through the Justice Sector Reform Program: Governance in Justice (GOJUST) which aims to enhance access to justice for all Filipinos and contribute to inclusive and sustainable socio-economic development.

GOJUST includes significant support for the Commission on Human Rights (CHR). This component is co-funded with the Spanish Agency for Development Cooperation (AECID) and is dedicated to strengthening the CHR's capacity to fulfill its constitutional mandate of protecting civil and political rights and promoting human rights across the Philippines. The partnership with AECID highlights a formidable alliance of the Spanish Cooperation with Philippine government institutions, emphasizing the collaborative effort to bridge the gap between society and government in the realm of human rights protection and promotion.

Another partnership between the EU and Spain is the Support to Bangsamoro Transition (SUBATRA) project - a 5-year collaborative program funded by both, in partnership with the Government of the Republic of the Philippines. This initiative aims to ensure a smooth and timely transition by strengthening the capacities of the Bangsamoro Government's executive, legislative, and judicial branches, as well as civil society organizations. By promoting good governance and effective policy implementation, SUBATRA focuses on enhancing the executive branch's ability to coordinate key transitional policies, improving the legislative branch's law-making and oversight functions, augmenting the judicial system's capacity to adjudicate cases and improve access to justice, and empowering civil society to actively contribute to a peaceful transition to the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM).

Through these joint initiatives, the EU and Spain are jointly fostering a strong justice system that not only upholds the rule of law but also advances human rights, peace ensuring a more just and equitable society in the country.

Spanish Cooperation in the Philippines

The first Cooperation Agreement between the Philippines and Spain was signed in 1974. The opening of the Spanish Cooperation Office (OCE) took place in 1992 and paved the way for a substantial improvement in technical cooperation relationships.

The strength of Spanish Development Cooperation lie in its flexibility, its respect for the principles of ownership and alignment with national development strategies and policies, its focus on poverty and vulnerability, its capacity to work with local governments, its mainstreaming of the gender approach, its close relationship with civil society organizations and its promotion of the relationship between these and national and local public institutional actors.

Non-reimbursable funding to the country under the previous Country Partnership Framework (2014- 2021) amounted to around €48,5 million (about €6 million per year) and focused particularly on peacebuilding, human rights, risk management and climate change adaptation, with a clear gender focus.

AECID's non-reimbursable economic transfers to national institutions have encountered challenges in showcasing their added value and in achieving effective implementation. These transfers will have to navigate the intricacies of aligning with and conforming to national regulations, which can pose significant hurdles to their successful execution. During the assessment period within the cooperation framework, one issue emerged pertaining to the complexity of realizing reimbursable cooperation operations, which have faced obstacles in terms of feasibility and execution. Additionally, the communication and visibility policy surrounding joint bilateral cooperation efforts has presented its own set of challenges, warranting a closer examination to ensure optimal impact and outreach.

Nevertheless, Spanish Cooperation is keen on pushing through with its support to the country in full recognition of the gaps while also working on addressing them as the new CPF is put in place. In fact, Spanish Cooperation has recently been equipped with a renewed instrument, the Master Plan for Spanish Cooperation for Sustainable Development and Global Solidarity 2024-2027, which aims to promote a triple transition: social, economic and ecological, as well as the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028 does, and aligned consequently with this new CPF.

1.4 Country Strategy Analysis

The Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028 (PDP 23-28) was approved and published during the second half of December 2022 and aims to build on the previous plan's accomplishments, despite the setbacks suffered due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 24 July 2023, President Ferdinand “Bongbong” R. Marcos delivered his second State of the Nation Address (SONA) at the Batasang Pambansa Complex in Quezon City. He outlined his administration's plans and priority legislation across various sectors, including agriculture, foreign policy, education, healthcare and infrastructure. One of the main goals for 2028 is to reduce poverty to a single-digit level. With this primary objective in a five-year period with other concerns to be addressed, the Philippine government has created an outline of priority actions in terms of economic and social development contained in the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028. The Philippine Development Plan (PDP) serves as the country's blueprint for development and guides the government's policies, programs, and projects over a six-year planning period. The plan is structured in an 8-Point Socioeconomic Agenda that will enable the growth of social and production sectors. The PDP 2023-2028 is a plan for deep economic and social transformation to reinvigorate job creation and accelerate poverty reduction by steering the economy back on a high-growth path. The Philippine government has committed that this growth must be inclusive, building an environment that provides equal opportunities to all Filipinos, and equipping them with skills to participate fully in an innovative and globally competitive economy.

PDP 23-28 builds on the work of previous plans and integrates within other national initiatives including the *Ambisyon Natin 2040*, which states that “by 2040, the Philippines shall be a prosperous, predominantly middle-class society where no one is poor. Our peoples will enjoy long and healthy lives, are smart and innovative, and will live in a high-trust society.”

Taking off from the lessons learned especially during the pandemic, the PDP 2023–2028 takes on the underlying theme of transforming the economic and social sectors and institutions for a prosperous, inclusive, and resilient society.

The transformation agenda is broken down into the following tenets:

- **Digitalization:** digital transformation of the government with an increase of compliance with regulations.

- **Servicification:** pursuing policies that will build ecosystems around economic clusters identified as potential sources of high growth.
- **Dynamic Innovation Ecosystem:** Government will support the creation of innovation ecosystems and their evolution to becoming a dynamic ecosystem that eventually generates not only more, but quality jobs.
- **Enhanced Connectivity:** digital and physical connectivity both nationally and internationally through infrastructure and transport is important to link markets to each other.
- **Great collaboration between local and national government:** the completion of Devolution Transition Plans (DTP) will be fast-tracked and operationalized to improve each LGU's capacity for delivering public services and raising local revenues.
- **Partnership with the private sector:** Reconfiguring public-private partnerships (PPP) can also help in addressing cross-cutting issues of a weak competition environment and the digital divide, as well as boost the country's campaign to attract foreign investments.

The strategies of PDP 2023-2028 are organized corresponding to the following objectives: (a) develop and protect capabilities of individuals and families; (b) transform production sectors to generate more quality jobs and produce competitive products; and (c) foster an enabling environment encompassing institutions, physical and natural environment, which promotes a prosperous, inclusive and resilient society.

Furthering its implementation, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. signed executive order (EO) 14 approving and adopting the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) which is the second medium-term plan anchored on "AmBisyon Natin 2040." EO No. 14 directs all national government agencies, government-owned or -controlled corporations (GOCCs), government financial institutions (GFIs), other national government offices and instrumentalities, government corporate entities (GCEs), state universities and colleges (SUCs) and local government units (LGUs) to adopt and disseminate the PDP 2023-2028. They are also directed to align their budgetary and department/corporate programs with the

strategies and activities identified in the PDP 2023-2028. PDP 2023-2028 is updated annually or when deemed necessary by NEDA.

The Department of Budget and Management provides the necessary budgetary support for the implementation, monitoring, assessment and implementation of the PDP and Public Investment Program (PIP) 2023-2028 while appropriations for its continued implementation are prepared in accordance with regular government budget procedures and are included in the budget of concerned departments, agencies and instrumentalities of the national government under the annual General Appropriations Act.

The government is strongly encouraged to implement effective mechanisms to monitor progress on the SDGs and incorporate them into public policy planning and implementation, especially at the local level. In the Philippines, the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals is done through regional development plans *"which translate the national development plan to regional strategies and priorities. RDPs are the main implementation of the SDGs at the regional and local levels."*⁶

Regarding the coordination mechanism for monitoring the PDP, there is the Philippine Development Forum (PDF), although international cooperation is no longer involved. The Philippine Harmonization Committee (PHC), an inter-agency body composed of representatives from the Departments of Finance (DoF), Budget Management (DBM), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and the Commission on Audit (COA), is responsible for the implementation of international development commitments.

A constant and fluid dialogue is maintained with NEDA as the national entity in charge of coordinating the country's economic and social development. However, the Department of Finance is recently playing an increasing role in the implementation and monitoring of the PDP and in dialogue with partner countries, a sign of the growing importance of international financial cooperation in the Philippines.

1.5 Inclusive partnerships

The Philippines is part of the Ibero-American Conference as an Associate Observer. This recognition, based on the Philippines' explicit interest

⁶ Government of the Philippines, 2019, - .13

in strengthening political, economic and socio-cultural relations with the Ibero-American community, allows for deepening ties and cooperation with the region.

Regular general meetings of partners are convened under the leadership of the World Bank, although without defined roadmaps. The most stable and effective group is the Humanitarian Country Team led by the UN and OCHA. The situation reflects the marginal weight of development cooperation in the country's development financing. Mention should be made of the gender and development group (ODA-GAD), which is relatively active. At the regional level, several meetings have taken place in relation to Mindanao-Bangsamoro and, following the approval of the Bangsamoro Organic Law, there seems to be a growing interest in coordinating actions given the special concentration of international cooperation actions in that territory. In the area of human rights, the EU exercises clear leadership in a dialogue that is not only limited to Member States (MS). Coordination between the EU- UN, Spain and Australia has materialized within the framework of the GOJUST delegated cooperation program. The EU-AECID delegated cooperation is yielding good results for the partnership with the government of the Philippines and work is underway on new phases and programs as the GOJUST II phase and SUBATRA, both currently being implemented. The preparation of the EU Programming 2021-2027 is enabling rapprochements between EU and other Member States' cooperation, which seems to open the door to a strengthening of coordination at the EU-Member State level. The recent signing of Framework Agreements for joint financing between Spain and the World and Asian Development Banks gives rise to greater hopes for the

materialization of partnerships for financial cooperation operations, especially if some of the main current restrictions of the FONPRODE instrument are favorably modified.

Many of the SC projects in the territories involve the construction of alliances and coordination spaces between civil society organizations, local governments, and national authorities to promote planning and implementation processes for public policies related to various issues: peacebuilding, disaster risk reduction, economic development, etc.

1.6 Conclusions

Based on the analysis provided, it is imperative that the Spanish Cooperation in the Philippines strategically directs its endeavors towards aiding the most susceptible segments of the population grappling with dire poverty and/or confronting challenges arising from unfavorable political-institutional, environmental circumstances or situations of armed conflict. Additionally, there should be an emphasis on addressing global warming through innovative circular economy approaches, alongside the formulation of robust and eco-friendly post-disaster recovery strategies. These efforts must align with the overarching goal of fostering resilient and sustainable economic development and growth. Achieving this objective necessitates close collaboration with regional and local governing bodies, as well as civil society organizations intricately linked with these critical issues. To ensure coherent execution, these initiatives should be done under the coordination of national agencies operating within each respective sphere of influence.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT RESULTS

2.1 Contribution to the 2030 Agenda and the Philippine Development Plan: People, prosperity, planet, peace and partnerships

The Philippine-Spain Country Partnership Framework 2025-2028 will be aligned with the public policies and strategic pillars of the Philippine Development Plan as well as with the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

Spain is committed to fostering inclusive prosperity and sustainable economic development in the Philippines through a multifaceted approach. The dedication to this partnership is unwavering, and the Spanish Cooperation aims to catalyze positive change by championing public policies that reinforce the bedrock of democracy and the rule of law. In doing so, we will create an environment conducive to peace, gender equality, enhanced quality of life, and equitable access to essential services. This commitment extends even more resolutely in the face of adversity, such as the challenges posed by climate change and natural disasters.

To fortify the foundations of democracy and the rule of law, **Spain will actively support Philippine policies and initiatives that ensure access to justice, including transitional justice mechanisms.** This means fostering **peaceful conflict resolution, uphold human rights, advance women's political participation, and empower provincial, local governments, and indigenous communities through capacity-building programs.** These efforts will not only strengthen democratic institutions but also promote social cohesion and resilience in the face of conflict, ensuring that peace dividends in the form of essential services and dignified livelihoods reach those most affected by strife. The commitment to this comprehensive approach reflects the dedication to the enduring success of the Spain-Philippines partnership framework.

Further, support will be given to climate-resilient development and enhancing national institutional mechanisms to better integrate preparedness, response and recovery. Participatory local policies aimed at reducing disaster risk will be promoted and access to essential basic services will be promoted, particularly those related to health, education or water supply and sanitation, emphasizing the needs of poor women, indigenous communities, families living in extreme poverty and other disadvantaged groups.

A strong emphasis is made on the empowerment and inclusion of women and youth, recognizing their vital contributions and immense potential in driving sustainable development. By equipping women with skills, and leadership opportunities, the partnership seeks to harness their unique perspectives and capacities,

fostering more resilient and adaptive communities. Similarly, the youth represent a dynamic force for change and innovation. Investing in their education and skills development ensures that the next generation is well-prepared to tackle future challenges, including those posed by climate change and natural disasters. Youth engagement in community planning and decision-making processes can lead to more innovative and effective solutions, as young people bring fresh ideas and a strong commitment to sustainable practices.

Spanish Development Cooperation is steadfast in its commitment to align with the global community's endeavors to advance the critical intersection of humanitarian, development, and peace efforts—commonly referred to as the humanitarian-development nexus and the triple nexus. In pursuit of this commitment, dedication to enhancing the synergy and efficiency of actions is done by fostering stronger coordination with the Philippine government, collaborating closely with international stakeholders, particularly the European Union and fellow Member States. Furthermore, Spanish cooperation is resolute in the commitment to strengthening internal coordination among Spanish governmental and non-governmental networks.

The projects will not only champion the core principles mentioned above but also actively facilitate the creation of platforms that foster meaningful participation between governance bodies and the governed. There is recognition in the paramount importance of collaboration between various public administrations and different tiers of government, all aimed at fostering a more interconnected and responsive system that serves the needs of the people effectively. This holistic approach underscores the unwavering dedication to the Spain-Philippines partnership framework and the shared vision for sustainable development, peace, and prosperity.

2.2 Territorial scope

Within the context of this Comprehensive Partnership Framework (CPF), Spanish Cooperation is strategically employing a geographically targeted approach to amplify its impact on development plans. This approach entails a deliberate concentration on regions most affected by the complex interplay of poverty, marginalization, conflicts, disasters and effects of natural hazards. The rationale underlying this selection is twofold: firstly, **to address the pressing needs of the most vulnerable segments of the**

population, and secondly, to build upon historical linkages and prior engagements. Notably, the island of Mindanao, the BARMM territory, and Region V of Bicol stand as focal points for sustained attention from Spanish Development Cooperation due to their heightened susceptibility to these challenges.

Furthermore, the aspirations of Filipino authorities align harmoniously with Spain's involvement in catalyzing progress in distinct model regions such as Cebu. This alignment is rooted in the notable strides made by Cebu in the areas of sustainable development and eco-tourism. In line with this shared vision, Spanish Cooperation has been invited to contribute to the growth path of these regions. It will also continue to sustain its work in the capital, Metro Manila and the surrounding areas.

While these designated areas take precedence, the scope of Spanish Cooperation's influence remains adaptable and responsive. The prospect of intervention in other regions remains open, contingent upon the manifestation of conditions conducive to the effective implementation of Spanish Cooperation's initiatives. In this sense, geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDAs)

will be studied with special interest. This approach underscores a dynamic commitment to transformative development that is both purposeful and adaptable, channeling resources and expertise where they can yield the most profound and lasting impact.

2.3 Contribution to the SDGs, results framework

Considering the expansive scope of the Spanish Cooperation's involvement in the Philippines, a strategic blueprint is set to be formulated. This cohesive and logical plan will identify the interventions that Spain will undertake in its support to the Philippines. This plan is a result of collaborative consultative seminars and workshops involving key stakeholders from both the Philippines and Spain. Through these deliberations, a resolute decision has been reached to intricately align the interventions with ongoing governmental and non-governmental endeavors within the country. The overarching aim is to create a robust results-oriented structure, anchored on the SDGs and the PDP, which will benefit the target areas and support the priorities of the country.

Table 1: RESULTS FRAMEWORK

The overall objective and the Intermediate Results under of the PH-Spain CPF for Development Cooperation 2025 – 2028 are supportive of the priority strategies espoused in the following Philippine Development Plan 2023 – 2028 Chapters:

OVERALL OBJECTIVE of the CPF Philippines-Spain 2025-2028		
Contribute to the consolidation of a more efficient democratic state that guarantees peace, justice, equity and the construction of a society resilient to the adverse effects of climate change and natural hazards.		
AGREED RESULTS FRAMEWORK	DEFINED BY THE PARTNER COUNTRY	DEFINED BY THE SPANISH COOPERATION
Developmental Results	PDP 2023-2028 Chapters	SDG AND GOAL
Developmental Results 1		
<p>Enhanced peaceful coexistence, improved respect for human rights, and increased access to justice for the vulnerable population in targeted territories in the Philippines.</p> <p>1.1 Improved peaceful coexistence in targeted territories, demonstrated by a significant reduction in reported incidents of conflict and violence due to interventions supported by Spanish cooperation.</p> <p>1.2 Improved awareness and exercise of human rights among vulnerable populations in targeted territories,</p>	<p>Chapter 13.2 emphasizes the need for coordinated action to enhance administration of justice by improving case disposition quality and efficiency (Outcome 1), improving access to quality free and affordable legal services by Filipinos (Outcome 2), and improving the quality of life of Persons Deprived of Liberty, and ensuring their productive re-integration in the community (Outcome 3).</p> <p>Chapter 13.2 includes strengthening of the CHR as the National Human Rights Institution, compliant with the requirements of the United Nations Paris Principles, United Nations Convention Against Torture, and Optional Protocol to the Convention. Specifically on the intensification of efforts of the Commission on Human Rights (CHR) to improve access to justice by: (i) empowering the poor and marginalized to seek responses and remedies for injustice; (ii) improving legal protection, awareness, and aid; (iii) improving civil society and parliamentary oversight; (iv) addressing human rights violations in the justice sector;</p>	<p>SDG 10: REDUCED INEQUALITIES</p> <p>Target 10.2. By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.</p> <p>SDG 16: PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</p> <p>Target 16.1. Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere.</p>

<p>driven by effective educational and advocacy initiatives supported by Spanish cooperation.</p> <p>1.3 Increased adherence to the rule of law and enhanced access to justice in targeted areas, as measured by expanded legal aid services and improved efficiency of judicial processes for vulnerable populations.</p>	<p>(v) strengthening linkages between formal and informal structures; and (vi) monitoring and evaluating such interventions.</p> <p>Furthermore, in line with NEDA's mandate as the lead agency for coordinating compliance with the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)¹, NEDA supports and welcomes partnerships focusing on enhancing Philippine institutions' competence and/or involvement in the promotion and protection of human rights.</p> <p>Chapter 13.2 highlights the use of ADR mechanisms at all levels, with the Supreme Court advocating to exhaust all available ADR mechanisms before judicial recourse. It is also in line with strategies under Outcome 1 of the Chapter, specifically on continued capacity building and advocacy activities of the Office of Alternative Dispute Resolution (OADR) to promote different ADR mechanisms. The OADR will likewise update, harmonize, and improve the Philippine legal framework to strengthen the use of ADR in the public and private sectors in accordance with international standards.</p> <p>Filipinos and residents of the Philippines will enjoy peace and security and an efficient justice system (Chapter 13).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lasting peace and security enable a stable environment for a strong and vibrant economy (Subchapter 13.1). • At the same time, an efficient justice system characterized by integrity, fairness, accessibility, and a proper regard for the rule of law is necessary for fostering a high-trust society and a favorable business climate (Chapter 13.2). 	<p>Target 16.3. Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all.</p> <p>Target 16.6. Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels.</p> <p>Target 16.7. Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.</p> <p>Target 16.a. Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime.</p>
Developmental Results 2		
<p>Advancing the promotion of a green economy that is inclusive, efficient, sustainable, and resilient to climate change, through participatory national and local policies aimed at reducing poverty</p> <p>2.1 Increased access to clean and renewable energy</p>	<p>CHAPTER 14 Practice Good Governance and Improve Bureaucratic Efficiency.</p> <p>Outcomes to be pursued to address these challenges during the Plan period are: (a) participatory governance deepened; (b) public accountability and integrity bolstered; (c) government functions, systems, and mechanisms rationalized and strengthened; and (d)</p>	<p>SDG 1: NO POVERTY</p> <p>Target 1.5. By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme</p>

<p>due to interventions supported by Spanish cooperation.</p> <p>2.2 Increased access to safe and affordable drinking water and adequate sanitation within a framework of sustainable water resources management due to interventions supported by Spanish cooperation.</p> <p>2.3 Enhanced economic growth and sustainable development in targeted communities through support for green entrepreneurship, innovation, and sustainable tourism initiatives.</p> <p>2.4 Enhanced capacity of local and national authorities to effectively protect the environment and increase resilience against climate impacts, while also focusing on the protection and restoration of critical water-related ecosystems, such as forests, wetlands, and rivers, in targeted regions.</p>	<p>competent, motivated, agile, and resilient public servants supported.</p> <p>Private sector and civil society will observe marked improvements in bureaucratic efficiency and the practice of good governance and (Chapter 14). Good governance entails bolstering public accountability and integrity and deepening participatory governance that ensures that marginalized sectors (e.g., women, children, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities and in GIDAs) have concrete roles and significant influence in all stages of public decision-making.</p> <p>Chapter 15: Accelerate Climate Action and Strengthen Disaster Resilience. Strengthen the capacity of local government units and communities in disaster prevention and preparedness.</p> <p>Plan recognizes the need for collective action to mitigate the climate crisis and strengthen our resilience to disasters (Chapter 15). The priority is to enhance the adaptive capacity of communities and ecosystems that are most vulnerable to natural hazards and climate change. This will be supported by an improved knowledge and data ecosystem, and good governance.</p>	<p>events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.</p> <p>SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation</p> <p>Target 6.1: By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.</p> <p>Target 6.2: By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations.</p> <p>Target 6.3: By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater, and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally.</p> <p>Target 6.4: By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity.</p> <p>Target 6.5: By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate.</p> <p>Target 6.6: By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers, and lakes.</p> <p>SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy</p> <p>Target 7.1: By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable, and modern energy services.</p>
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		<p>Target 7.A: By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency, and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology.</p> <p>SDG 8: DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p> <p>Target 8.4. Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavor to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-Year Framework of Programs on Sustainable Consumption and Production, with developed countries taking the lead.</p> <p>SDG 13: CLIMATE ACTION</p> <p>Target 13.1. Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and disasters in all countries.</p> <p>Target 13.2. Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning.</p> <p>Target 13.3. Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.</p>
Developmental Results 3		
Increased participation of women and youth in political and economic spheres, alongside strengthened governance structures, with a particular focus on	<p>Chapter 13: Peace and Security, and Administration of Justice</p> <p>i. Ensure gender mainstreaming and protection of vulnerable groups in conflict affected communities; and</p>	<p>SDG 5: GENDER EQUALITY Indicators</p> <p>Target 5.1. Enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination based on Gender.</p>

<p>empowering indigenous women and youth in the most marginalized regions.</p> <p>3.1 Enhanced access to economic resources and property ownership for indigenous women in targeted areas.</p> <p>3.2 Increased adoption of gender-inclusive and youth-participatory policies by Philippine public institutions and organizations</p> <p>3.3 Strengthened mechanisms to address gender-based violence with a targeted approach to empowering women in the most marginalized regions.</p> <p>3.4 Increased access of youth to vocational training and employment</p>	<p>ii. Strengthen victim legal protection and assistance</p> <p>Chapter 14: Practice Good Governance and Improve Bureaucratic Efficiency</p> <p>i. Ensure sufficient and functional participatory spaces; and</p> <p>ii. Increase inclusivity and accessibility of elections.</p> <p>Subchapter 2.2 Improve Education and Lifelong Learning</p> <p>Outcome 3: Governance for human capital development improved.</p> <p>Alignment to youth is found in the Philippine Youth Development Plan of the National Youth Commission which is anchored on the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028</p> <p>Further, alignment to women is found in the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) Plan 2019-2025.</p>	<p>Target 5.2. Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.</p> <p>Target 5.5. Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.</p> <p>Target 5.a. Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.</p> <p>Target 5.b. Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women</p> <p>Target 4.7</p> <p>By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and nonviolence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development.</p>
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***CPF DEVELOPMENT RESULT 1:
Enhanced peaceful coexistence,
improved respect for human rights,
and increased access to justice for the
vulnerable population in targeted
territories in the Philippines.***

Intermediate Results

1.1 Improved peaceful coexistence in targeted territories, demonstrated by a significant reduction in reported incidents of conflict and violence due to interventions supported by Spanish cooperation.

1.2 Improved awareness and exercise of human rights among vulnerable populations in targeted territories, driven by effective educational and advocacy initiatives supported by Spanish cooperation.

1.3 Increased adherence to the rule of law and enhanced access to justice in targeted areas, as measured by expanded legal aid services and improved efficiency of judicial processes for vulnerable populations.

This first development result strives to enhance the capacities of Philippine institutions to promote the protection of human rights, including the provision of services to vulnerable populations whose rights have been violated, and promote the harmonization of different justice schemes and the consolidation of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. Additionally, the implementation of peacebuilding and violent extremism prevention strategies will be supported.

This developmental outcome finds its synergy with the focal points outlined in the Philippine Development Plan (PDP), the European Union's cooperation priorities, and the UNDP Country Program 2024-2028, key objectives. This alignment is discernible within the intricate fabric of the PDP's overarching objectives, which seek to empower individuals and families while nurturing an enabling environment that fosters societal prosperity, inclusivity, and resilience.

Moreover, this result dovetails with the second priority area of the EU's Multi-annual Indicative Program 2021-2027 for the Philippines, aptly designated as "Peaceful and Just Society, Good Governance." It also harmonizes with the UNDP Country Program's third priority outcome, which champions the recognition and shared appreciation of the diverse cultural histories, identities, and disparities in conflict-affected regions. By enabling the establishment of governance systems that are both inclusive and

responsive, it paves the way for sustainable and equitable development, propelling the quest for enduring peace in the conflict-imbued corners of Mindanao.

This result is fully aligned with the sectoral priorities established by the recently approved Master Plan for Spanish Cooperation 2024-2027, which seeks a social transition that prioritizes the well-being of the population, guaranteeing, among others, the free exercise of civil and political rights. Likewise, it is established that participatory peace and social reconciliation processes will be promoted through inclusive and transparent governance mechanisms, with the purpose of strengthening democracy and the rule of law. It is also aligned with the objective of enhancing the institutional capacities for the promotion of human rights and the access to justice, as well as the protection of human rights defenders.

***CPF DEVELOPMENT RESULT 2:
Advancing the promotion of a green
economy that is inclusive, efficient,
sustainable, and resilient to climate
change, through participatory national
and local policies aimed at reducing
poverty.***

Intermediate Results

2.1 Increased access to clean and renewable energy due to interventions supported by Spanish cooperation.

2.2 Increased access to safe and affordable drinking water and adequate sanitation within a framework of sustainable water resources management due to interventions supported by Spanish cooperation.

2.3 Enhanced economic growth and sustainable development in targeted communities through support for green entrepreneurship, innovation, and sustainable tourism initiatives.

2.4 Enhanced capacity of local and national authorities to effectively protect the environment and increase resilience against climate impacts, while also focusing on the protection and restoration of critical water-related ecosystems, such as forests, wetlands, and rivers, in targeted regions.

In the Spain-Philippine partnership, a key goal is to create a strong framework for developing and implementing effective strategies that involve communities in dealing with climate change. These strategies are expected to be seamlessly integrated into the local sectoral and development plans across the Philippines, particularly at the grassroots level.

At the core of this developmental outcome is a deep understanding of how important access to clean water and good sanitation is for keeping communities healthy and safe. It's very clear that these essential services are not only crucial for public health but also essential for helping communities stay strong.

In the pursuit of this goal, the partnership underscores the critical importance of harnessing technology-driven solutions in tandem with sustainable resource management practices. Technology has emerged as a key enabler with the potential to empower local agencies and governments in the Philippines to enhance their preparedness and response capabilities.

The incorporation of digitalization and advanced technologies is recognized to be a catalyst for progress in this regard. These innovations offer the potential to significantly improve the provision of essential services and livelihood opportunities in a manner that is both sustainable and resilient. Whether it is the efficient monitoring of water quality, the rapid dissemination of critical health information, or the optimization of resource allocation, technology promises to be a transformative force.

Furthermore, this partnership recognizes that building community resilience is not a solitary endeavor. It requires synergies between local and national authorities, communities, and civil society. By fostering participatory approaches, the policy framework seeks to ensure that the voices and concerns of vulnerable populations are at the forefront of decision-making processes.

The objectives presented align with the PDP's overarching goals: "develop and protect capabilities of individuals and families" and "foster an enabling environment encompassing institutions, physical and natural environment, which promotes a prosperous, inclusive and resilient society". It coincides with priority area one of the EU's Multi annual Indicative Program 2021-2027: "Green, Resilient Economy and Green Jobs" as well as both Team Europe Initiatives (TEIs): "Circular Economy and Plastic Waste Management" and "Digital Transformation and Connectivity". There is also synergy

with UNDP Country Program 2024 -2028 outcome two, *"National and local governments and key stakeholders ensure that urbanization, economic growth, and climate change actions are converging for a resilient, sustainable and equitable development path of communities."*

The goal of this development result is to increase the capacities of vulnerable populations and the harmony between development plans and the ecosystems with which they cohabit, through the development and implementation of effective and participatory risk reduction, climate change adaptation, disaster response strategies and recovery strategies from a gender-responsive approach.

Likewise, the Master Plan for Spanish Cooperation 2024-2027 focuses on the need to move towards a fair green and digital socioeconomic model that puts people, the care of life and the planet at the center of public policies for sustainable development, promoting an equitable ecological transition on a global scale. In this way, the result is directed towards this guideline articulated around the fight against climate change, access to clean energy; the protection and conservation of biodiversity, the human rights to water and sanitation and the promotion of sustainable economic growth.

CPF DEVELOPMENT RESULT 3:

Increased participation of women and youth in political and economic spheres, alongside strengthened governance structures, with a particular focus on empowering indigenous women and youth in the most marginalized regions.

Intermediate Results

- 3.1 Enhanced access to economic resources and property ownership for indigenous women in targeted areas.
- 3.2 Increased adoption of gender-inclusive and youth-participatory policies by Philippine public institutions and organizations
- 3.3 Strengthened mechanisms to address gender-based violence with a targeted approach to empowering women in the most marginalized regions.
- 3.4 Increased access of youth to vocational training and employment

This developmental result aligns closely with Goal 14 of the Philippine Development Plan (PDP), which focuses on

"Building Sustainable and Resilient Communities." By increasing the participation of women and youth, particularly indigenous women and youth in vulnerable areas, in political and economic life, the developmental result contributes directly to the broader objective of fostering sustainable and resilient communities outlined in the PDP. Specifically, the increased engagement of women and youth enhance social inclusivity and strengthens the fabric of local communities, aligning with the PDP's aim to promote social cohesion and unity. Moreover, by prioritizing indigenous women and youth in marginalized regions, this developmental result addresses the PDP's commitment to reducing disparities and promoting equitable development across all segments of society.

It is important to mention here the Philippines' strong emphasis to gender equality which aligns with this developmental result. The Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) Plan 2019-2025 represents a pivotal strategy within the Philippines' broader developmental framework, bridging critical policy periods and reinforcing the nation's commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment. This comprehensive plan serves as a confluence of visions from the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022 and the enduring goals of the Philippine Plan for Gender-Responsive Development (PPGD) 1995-2025, setting a course for impactful and strategic actions aimed at realizing gender parity and uplifting women's roles in society.

Central to the GEWE Plan's objectives is the robust implementation of the Magna Carta of Women or Republic Act (RA) 9710. This legislative framework is instrumental in advancing the rights and welfare of women in the Philippines, aligning with the inclusive human development goals outlined in the PDP 2017-2022 and contributing to the collective aspirations of *AmBisyon Natin 2040*—a vision for a prosperous, cohesive, and equitable Filipino society by the year 2040. Moreover, the GEWE Plan is designed to propel the country toward its long-term vision of gender equality and women's empowerment as articulated in the PPGD 1995-2025. It recognizes the critical role of gender inclusivity in national development and seeks to address systemic barriers that have historically marginalized women. In addition to national policies and visions, the GEWE Plan facilitates the Philippines' adherence to international commitments on gender equality and women's empowerment. It aligns with global frameworks such as

the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA), and the UN Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR) on Women, Peace, and Security. Furthermore, it supports the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 5 on Gender Equality, while also resonating with relevant declarations and action plans from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). In essence, the GEWE Plan 2019-2025 embodies the Philippines' integrated and multi-dimensional approach to fostering gender equality and empowering women, weaving together national ambitions with global commitments to create a more inclusive and equitable society.

The developmental result underscores a concerted effort to elevate the engagement of women and youth within both political and economic realms. By actively involving these demographic groups in decision-making processes, initiatives aim to foster more inclusive governance structures and economic opportunities. This heightened participation not only reflects a commitment to gender equality and youth empowerment but also recognizes their invaluable perspectives and contributions towards driving sustainable development and societal progress. Moreover, by amplifying the voices of indigenous women and youth, particularly in regions facing heightened vulnerabilities, the approach seeks to address systemic disparities and promote more equitable outcomes.

The emphasis on indigenous women and youth in the most vulnerable areas acknowledges the unique challenges faced by indigenous communities in the Philippines. These communities often experience higher levels of poverty and marginalization, making it crucial to ensure that their voices are heard, and their rights are protected. By specifically targeting indigenous women for empowerment and participation, this result aims to address the intersectional inequalities they face and promote their active involvement in shaping the development agenda. Ultimately, by increasing the participation of women and youth, including indigenous women and youth, in political and economic governance, this result contributes to building more resilient and peaceful communities, fostering social cohesion, and advancing the overall well-being of society as a whole.

Within this context, a key focal point is the reinforcement of governance mechanisms to ensure transparency, accountability, and responsiveness to the diverse needs and aspirations of communities. By nurturing an

environment conducive to active participation, initiatives aim to cultivate a culture of good governance that promotes social cohesion and fosters trust between citizens and institutions. Additionally, by prioritizing marginalized groups, efforts seek to harness the full potential of these communities as agents of change and drivers of sustainable development. Through these multifaceted strategies, the developmental result strives to advance broader goals of inclusivity, equity, and social resilience.

In line with this result, Spanish Cooperation, as a feminist cooperation, identifies gender equality as a priority sector in the Master Plan for Spanish Cooperation 2024-2027, in compliance with the dual crosscutting and empowerment approach proposed by the Beijing Declaration and Platform. The objective of achieving a social transition that guarantees gender equality, promoting, among others, the civil, political, economic and labour rights of women, and the participation in all the spheres, strengthening their leadership in the decision-making processes. , Furthermore, it is established the fight against all forms of gender based violence, through prevention, awareness and the development of legal frameworks to guarantee women and girl's rights. Moreover, to achieve a just fair social transition, the Master Plan for Spanish Cooperation 2024-2027 establishes as a priority the promoting among young people, the most vulnerable populations and indigenous people, of access to inclusive technical and professional education that allows access to employment and decent work.

CROSS-CUTTING PRINCIPLES OF SPANISH COOPERATION

The new Master Plan 2024-2027, the instrument that will guide Spanish cooperation in the coming years, is committed to a series of cross-cutting principles across all cooperation actions: a human rights-based approach, a feminist and gender approach, the fight against poverty and inequalities, climate justice and environmental sustainability, cultural diversity, and peacebuilding. Accordingly, this new CPF, also aligned with the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028, merges the following cross-cutting approaches that will advocate for social, economic, and ecological transformation:

3.1 Gender Equality and Gender Mainstreaming

Gender equality and gender mainstreaming are central tenets of Spanish cooperation in the Philippines, underpinning the foundation of support and aligning with the country's legislative and developmental frameworks. This cooperation resonates with the principles of the Magna Carta of Women or Republic Act (RA) 9710, which aims to eliminate gender discrimination and promote the rights and welfare of Filipino women. In synergy with the Gender and Development (GAD) budget allocation law, which mandates that at least 5% of the General Appropriations Act be dedicated to GAD programs, Spanish funding support reinforces the commitment to tangible gender-focused initiatives.

Furthermore, the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) Plan 2019-2025, which articulates a clear vision for gender-responsive development, is a key instrument in this partnership. The GEWE Plan's strategic actions are integral to ensuring that Spanish cooperation efforts contribute to inclusive human development goals and the collective vision of a gender-equal future.

The commitment to gender equality is a shared understanding between Spain and the Philippines, acknowledging that empowering all genders, eradicating discrimination, and fostering equal opportunities are imperative for sustainable development. This understanding guarantees that Spanish-supported policies, programs, and initiatives do not merely seek to address gender disparities but actively advance the participation and representation of all genders in every facet of life.

Gender mainstreaming is employed as a strategic

approach within the Spanish-Philippine cooperation, ensuring that gender perspectives are methodically incorporated at every level of project planning, implementation, and assessment. This strategic integration serves as a testament to Spain's commitment to nurturing a fair and inclusive Philippine society, where every person, regardless of gender, is empowered to reach their full potential and contribute to national development.

In accordance with the recently approved Master Plan for Spanish Cooperation, the Feminist and Gender approach aims to address the roots and causes of the structural inequalities between men and women and to promote transformative actions to reduce those inequalities. It also integrates the intersectional perspective that links gender to other conditions that intensify the inequalities such as race, culture, ethnicity, disabilities and sexual orientation, among others.

This approach intends to guarantee the participation of women in all the decision-making spheres and to create safe spaces for feminist organizations and women's rights defenders to advocacy for their rights.

3.2 Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Action

Environmental sustainability and climate change action constitute core cross-cutting principles underlying Spanish cooperation in the Philippines, forming the fundamental basis for funding support extended by Spain. Recognizing the urgent global need to address environmental challenges, Spain is steadfast in its commitment to aiding the Philippines in its efforts to mitigate climate change impacts and promote sustainable development, including through the promotion of renewable energy development. By allocating funding in alignment with these principles, Spain aims to facilitate the implementation of impactful projects that bolster the Philippines' resilience to environmental threats, reduce carbon emissions, and conserve natural resources. This approach is underscored by the integration of environmentally conscious strategies throughout all levels of project planning and execution, ensuring that ecological considerations are ingrained in the fabric of development initiatives. Through its strategic partnership with the Philippines, Spain not only demonstrates its dedication to catalyzing meaningful change but also lays the groundwork for a greener, more sustainable future for both nations and the global community at large.

In line with the Master Plan for Spanish Cooperation, this approach should be linked to the feminist perspectives on sustainability of life and planet based on the valuable inputs from the ecofeminisms. This includes the promotion of care policies and the alliances with the environmental organizations and human rights defenders, with especial attention to the indigenous organizations. On the other hand, the approach aims to promote and strengthen the involvement of youth in the climate policy making.

Finally, the environmental sustainability and the climate crisis is closely related to the Fight against Poverty and Inequalities approach contained in the Master Plan for Spanish Cooperation, as it compromises the livelihoods and the access to natural resources for the people living in poverty, intensifying their vulnerability. This approach will focus on ending the child poverty and strengthening the public policies to guarantee the access to economic resources to all, leaving none behind.

3.3 Rights-based Approach

Spain's commitment to this approach emphasizes the intrinsic value of upholding human rights, fostering social justice, and ensuring the dignity and agency of all individuals. By embedding this principle within their cooperative efforts, Spain underscores the significance of empowering marginalized populations, advancing civil liberties, and creating an environment where every Filipino can enjoy their inherent rights and freedoms. This approach guides the design and execution of projects supported by Spanish funding, ensuring that they not only address immediate needs but also contribute to long-term systemic changes that promote inclusivity, accountability, and equal access to opportunities.

In accordance with the enjoyment of the rights and freedom inherent to human beings, the Master Plan for Spanish Cooperation adopts a Peacebuilding Approach that seeks to guarantee freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly, and to promote inclusive dialogue between different actors to achieve sustainable and lasting solutions. Peacekeeping and peacebuilding are one of the main objectives of Spain's foreign policy, therefore, its efforts are geared towards conflict prevention, the promotion of peaceful conflict resolution and the fostering of culture of peace. This approach also adopts a vision of a triple humanitarian-development-peace nexus in order to respond effectively to the needs of populations in fragile contexts and to advance in the defense of their rights.

The Master Plan for Spanish Cooperation also considers the Cultural Diversity approach linked to the human rights approach as an essential key driver for peace, social cohesion and democracy, which will recognize and value the cultural and linguistic plurality in all dimensions.

3.4 Research, Digitalization and Ethics

Spain and the Philippines, over the years, has embarked on academic and scientific collaborations which have yielded mutual benefit in new discoveries and improved solutions to address common societal dilemmas. For this CPF, continued efforts will be made to foster the exchange of knowledge and experiences, with a focus on innovative development solutions. This includes enhancing connections between universities and scientific communities, promoting university cooperation, and engaging the private sector as partners in development. Additionally, the use of digital solutions will be encouraged to support the Philippines' digital transformation.

Spain, as a member of the European Union, through the Team Europe Initiative, promote the Sustainable Connectivity Initiative which includes actions in energy, transport, digitalization, education and promote trade and sustainable value chains.

Spain is actively advancing its research, digitalization, and AI ethics agenda through several initiatives. The country's national AI strategy, part of the broader Digital Spain 2025 Agenda, emphasizes the integration of AI in public administration to enhance decision-making and service efficiency. Key actions include embedding AI technologies, increasing AI skills among public officials, and launching innovation labs to explore AI applications in governance. Moreover, Spain's participation in the Global Partnership on AI and various European research, development and innovation programs underscores its commitment to fostering international cooperation and knowledge exchange in AI research.

In a landmark move, Spain has established the Spanish Agency for the Supervision of Artificial Intelligence (AESIA), the first dedicated AI regulatory body within the EU. This agency is tasked with ensuring that AI development aligns with principles of inclusivity, sustainability, and citizen welfare. The agency supports the enforcement of the EU AI Act, which includes establishing regulatory sandboxes for controlled experimentation with AI technologies. Additionally, Spain's collaborative efforts with international partners,

as demonstrated by the ADIA Lab's establishment in Granada, highlight its role as a hub for cutting-edge AI research and development. These initiatives collectively aim to position Spain at the forefront of ethical and innovative AI deployment.

Meanwhile, the Philippines is making significant strides in digitalization and AI ethics through various comprehensive strategies aimed at transforming its economy and public services. The national government, under the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT), is prioritizing the digitization of government services to enhance accessibility and efficiency for citizens. Moreover, the government has allocated for digital transformation in 2023, underscoring its commitment to integrating digital technologies into public administration to improve service delivery and foster a more responsive government.

In parallel, the Philippines is advancing its AI ethics agenda through the implementation of a National AI Strategy. This strategy, spearheaded by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), focuses on four key dimensions: digitalization and infrastructure, workforce development, regulation, and research and development. The goal is to harness AI technology to boost economic competitiveness, create new job opportunities, and foster inclusive growth.

Spain is steadfast in its commitment to aiding the Philippines in harnessing digital tools to drive sustainable development and societal progress. This principle places a high premium on upholding ethical considerations in the use of technology, ensuring that advancements are pursued in a manner that respects privacy, security, and human rights. By integrating research and digitalization into projects supported by Spanish funding, Spain aims to facilitate knowledge transfer, enhance capacity building, and foster innovation-led solutions to the challenges faced by the Philippines.

PARTNERSHIPS FOR STRATEGY

The Principles of Effectiveness of International Cooperation will be adopted, especially ownership and partnerships, seeking the scalability of transformative experiences at the local level. Agreed in 2011 (as in the [Nairobi Document](#)) by more than 161 countries and 56 organizations, the four principles of effective development co-operation provide a framework for more equal and empowered partnerships and more sustainable development outcomes.

The implementation of this strategy will apply the lessons learned from the implementation of the previous CPF. It will also be adapted to the new reality of the country after a decade of rapid economic growth with new and different challenges in terms of sustainable development. It will also take into account how the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has affected these development and employment prospects.

Strategic partnerships will be promoted, building on the network of institutional relationships nurtured in the previous period. These alliances will enable the interconnection between institutions and instruments oriented towards the fulfilment of the Development Objective and Results of this CPF, considering actors, modalities and instruments. The materialization of technical assistance required by Philippine actors in the areas defined in this CPF and in which Spain has an added value will be promoted. It will also seek to identify opportunities for building partnerships with the private sector and in triangular cooperation.

4.1 Spanish Cooperation Actors

Spanish Central State Administration and other public sector entities

The Secretariat of State for International Cooperation (SECI) within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation oversees development cooperation policy in Spain. Policy planning, monitoring, and evaluation are handled by the Directorate General for Sustainable Development Policies (DGPOLDES), while aid financing and implementation fall under the jurisdiction of the Spanish Agency for International

Development Cooperation (AECID). These entities collaborate with other stakeholders, such as the state public sector foundation FIIAPP (International and Ibero-American Foundation for Administration and Public Policies), and are represented in international organizations to ensure effective coordination.

In the Philippines, the Spanish Cooperation Office (OCE) of AECID at the Spanish Embassy in Manila takes charge of identifying and monitoring AECID-funded development projects and programs. Furthermore, it offers support and coordinates all Spanish Cooperation efforts in the Philippines.

Through the OCE, contacts with partners, beneficiaries and counterparts of the Spanish Cooperation in the Philippines are facilitated and channeled. It should be noted that Spanish autonomous communities and local entities are occasionally active in the Philippines, supporting projects implemented by NGOs.

Spanish Regional Agencies, Partnership with Ministries and Local Government Units

Spanish regional agencies, ministries and local government units have actively engaged in various partnerships with the Philippines.

One example, under the GOJUST program, is the study visit for a high-level delegation to the Philippines to learn from the Spanish judicial system which was done in close collaboration with the Spanish Judiciary, the Spanish Ministry of Justice, the National Police and other attached agencies.

Another notable collaboration is between the Basque Agency for Development Cooperation (AVCD) and the local government units in the Mindanao region. This collaboration focuses on agricultural development and peacebuilding initiatives, particularly in areas affected by conflict.

In alignment with the objectives this CPF and the priorities of the Spanish institutions mentioned, similar initiatives are foreseen which forms a coherent strategy of Spanish cooperation in the Philippines.

Since 2005, Spanish local governments have contributed to the funding of nearly 200 projects aiming to foster sustainable development, social inclusion, and resilience in vulnerable communities. Special mention to the

Madrid City Council, which funded in 2021 an ambitious program to improve the resilience and response capacity to natural disasters of vulnerable communities in Bicol Region, a strategic area for Spanish Cooperation.

Spanish Non-Governmental Development Organizations

Spanish NGOs channel a substantial portion of Spanish ODA in the Philippines. There are currently 12 Spanish organizations implementing projects in the Philippines with public funding, especially in the areas of gender in development, disaster risk management, peacebuilding and education, as well as humanitarian action. Their joint action with Philippine civil society organizations promotes citizen participation and constitutes a fundamental pillar in the achievement of the results envisaged in the CPF. Funding through annual or periodic calls for proposals from AECID, as well as from Spanish autonomous communities and local entities is expected to exceed 9 million euros for the period 2021- 2024. These NGOs also implement projects with their own funds and funds from other development funding sources such as the European Union and the United Nations.

Spanish Non-Governmental Organizations implementing projects in the Philippines

ASOCIACIÓN POR LA PAZ Y EL DESARROLLO
 ASOCIACION ZABALKETA
 CÁRITAS ESPAÑOLA
 CRUZ ROJA ESPAÑOLA
 FUNDACIÓN ACCIONA.ORG
 FUNDACIÓN BENITO MENNI
 FUNDACIÓN CODESPA
 FUNDACIÓN CONCORDIA Y LIBERTAD
 FUNDACIÓN DE RELIGIOSOS PARA LA SALUD
 FUNDACIÓN EDUCACIÓN Y COOPERACIÓN (EDUCO)
 FUNDACIÓN INTERED
 MANOS UNIDAS

Universities and teaching and research centers

Spanish universities are a key partner for development due to their role in the generation and transmission of knowledge through teaching, research, innovation, knowledge and technology transfer and networking. Notably, the University of Malaga is deeply engaged in the reform of the judicial sector of the Philippines. Moreover, the University of Alicante coordinates ANTENA - a capacity building cooperation project co-funded by the Erasmus+ program of the European Commission focused at improving the internationalization of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in the Philippines.

The establishment of new alliances with universities and research centers and the reinforcement of the existing ones will be promoted in order to provide innovative responses to the global challenges of the 2030 Agenda and the PDP.

Businesses, Private Sector and Trade Unions

Businesses through their representative organizations, together with trade unions, are social agents and actors recognized by our cooperation system. The CPF will promote their participation in the creation of decent work and in the promotion of inclusive and sustainable economic growth that contributes to reducing inequalities, fostering democratic governance and poverty eradication.

The Spanish Chamber of Commerce plays a special role in the Philippines, through which it will promote the participation of business in the development cooperation program, including the analysis of the impact of their activities on the SDGs.

Businesses, the private sector, and trade unions are fundamental pillars in the Spain-Philippines partnership framework, and their active participation is paramount to its success and effectiveness. Their engagement carries significant implications for both countries, as well as the broader goals of economic development, social progress, and sustainable cooperation.

At the heart of this partnership lies the pivotal role played by businesses and the private sector in driving economic growth and investment. Spanish businesses investing in the Philippines not only contribute to the country's GDP but also stimulate job creation and generate government revenue. This economic synergy fosters mutual prosperity and improved living standards for citizens in both Spain and the Philippines.

Furthermore, the private sector, with its innovative capabilities, brings the opportunity for technology transfer and knowledge sharing. Spanish expertise in sectors like renewable energy, infrastructure development, and tourism can empower the Philippines in its pursuit of economic diversification and sustainability. The exchange of knowledge and resources can be a catalyst for transformative growth.

In tandem with businesses, trade unions play a crucial role in safeguarding the rights and well-being of workers in both countries. They advocate for fair wages, safe working conditions, and opportunities for professional growth. By ensuring that labor standards are upheld, trade unions contribute to a skilled and productive labor force, which is essential for sustainable economic development.

Moreover, trade unions advocate for labor standards that benefit workers in both Spain and the Philippines, fostering fair employment practices and equitable opportunities for all. Their involvement in the partnership can also aid in identifying new market opportunities and addressing trade barriers, further strengthening economic ties between the two nations.

The private sector's commitment to sustainable business practices and corporate social responsibility is a cornerstone of this partnership. Collaborative efforts can lead to environmentally responsible initiatives, job creation in green sectors, and the promotion of sustainable supply chains. These actions align with the global drive for sustainability and contribute to shared goals of environmental protection.

Additionally, businesses and the private sector have the capacity to engage in corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives that positively impact local communities. Such initiatives may include philanthropic endeavors, support for education, and participation in poverty alleviation programs. By actively engaging in CSR, the private sector aligns with the partnership's overarching objectives of fostering inclusive prosperity and improving the overall quality of life.

Lastly, trade unions act as important intermediaries between workers and employers, advocating for labor rights, fair wages, and improved working conditions. This ensures that economic growth is inclusive and that its benefits extend to all segments of society. Their role in advocating for social cohesion and reduced inequality aligns with the partnership's commitment to social

progress.

In times of crises, such as natural disasters and public health emergencies, the agility and resources of the private sector and trade unions can be critical. Their involvement in providing support, resources, and logistics contributes to the partnership's resilience in the face of adversity.

4.2 Actors in the Philippines

Philippine Central Government Entities

The National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) is the main interlocutor through which the CPF is negotiated and is thus the entity responsible on the Philippine side for monitoring and evaluating its implementation.

In the realm of cooperation operations, particularly those involving finances, the Department of Finance (DOF) assumes a pivotal role in granting approvals. It holds the central position in these matters.

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) also monitors development cooperation and takes an interest in the implementation of programs and projects.

In addition to these entities that articulate the development cooperation dialogue as a whole, the following national agencies are particularly strategic for the achievement of the CPF's expected results:

- The Department of Agriculture (DA) to ensure complementation of interventions under the CPF with the existing interventions of the DA which aims to assist agriculture and fishery communities in adapting to climate change such as the promotion of climate- resilient agriculture technologies and practices; and
- Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity (OPAPRU) given its mandate to manage, direct, integrate, and supervise the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Process through promoting and reinforcing reconciliation and unity among the Filipino people.
- Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) is the main partner for local

development policies, including conflict resolution and disaster risk management.

- Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) is responsible for social and development policies and therefore a key partner in the implementation of participatory projects within the framework of national community development policies.
- Office of Civil Defense (OCD), which serves as the implementer of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (NDRRMC), tasked with administering a comprehensive nationwide program to reduce vulnerabilities and risks to hazards and manage the consequences of disasters.
- Commission on Human Rights (CHR). It is the main partner for cooperation in advancing respect for human rights.
- The Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) and the Local Government Academy (LGA) have been and are strategic partners of Spanish development cooperation.
- Department of Justice (DoJ) plays a central role in the Spain-Philippines bilateral partnership by facilitating legal cooperation, supporting law enforcement efforts, upholding human rights, and promoting the rule of law. Its involvement is essential for ensuring that the partnership operates within a strong legal framework and effectively addresses various legal and justice-related challenges that both countries may encounter.
- Supreme Court of the Philippines (SC) in the Philippines plays a vital role in the Spain-Philippines bilateral partnership by upholding the rule of law, safeguarding human rights, facilitating legal cooperation, and ensuring the fair and impartial administration of justice. Its contributions are essential for maintaining a strong legal framework that supports the partnership's objectives and fosters cooperation in various legal and judicial matters between the two countries. On one hand, the SCJ is responsible for upholding the principle of judicial independence in the Philippines. This independence is essential for ensuring fair and impartial adjudication of legal matters,

including those involving international cooperation with Spain. It ensures that judicial decisions are made without undue influence from external sources. Moreover, the SCJ interprets and applies both domestic and international laws within the Philippine legal system. When issues related to international agreements, treaties, or extradition requests from Spain arise, the SCJ's rulings and interpretations are critical in determining their validity and enforceability within the Philippine legal framework.

- Other entities responsible for public policies linked to the CPF objectives are: the Climate Change Commission (CCC), the Department of Education (DepEd), the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP).

Public local and regional authorities in the Philippines

The strong localization component of Spanish development cooperation action involves the development of partnerships with provincial, municipal and barangay local governments in the areas of action, mainly in the Bicol and Visayas regions, and in Mindanao.

In Mindanao, actions will also be articulated with the government of the new Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), Bangsamoro Human Rights Commission (BHRC), Bangsamoro Women's Commission (BWC). Development policies related to Mindanao will also be coordinated with the Mindanao Development Authority (MINDA).

In coherence with the need to strengthen the capacities of Local Government Units (LGUs), due to the increase in public budget transfers, the Spanish Cooperation will align itself with the more strategic directive functions of national agencies in tackling priority issues for development within the framework of globalization. National agencies focus on setting national standards and policies, supporting and supervising the performance of LGUs, which should progressively assume a transcendental role in the implementation of the different public policies.

Philippine civil society organizations

They are a key actor as strategic partners in bilateral projects in the framework of public-private partnerships with civil society; especially at a time when in several sectors bilateral projects are expected to be implemented through civil society platforms under the leadership of the national agency responsible in each case. These organizations are particularly important for the promotion of the necessary citizen participation in the design and implementation of effective and efficient policies.

Philippine universities

In the framework of the promotion of knowledge management, partnerships with universities with particular competence linked to the results envisaged in the CPF will be considered. Philippine universities can contribute significantly to the Spain-Philippines bilateral partnership by fostering educational, research, cultural, and social exchanges. Their potential role spans a wide range of activities that promote cooperation, understanding, and progress in various fields. Through these collaborative efforts, universities become key drivers of the partnership's success and its contributions to both nations' development and global engagement.

Philippine Civil Society

The active engagement of Philippine non-governmental organizations (NGOs) is integral to the successful implementation of the Country Partnership Framework Agreement. Philippine NGOs bring an in-depth understanding of the local context, culture, and specific needs of communities across the country. Their grassroots presence and strong community ties allow for a more targeted and inclusive approach to development initiatives outlined in the agreement. These NGOs serve as vital conduits between the government, local communities, and various stakeholders, facilitating effective communication, participation, and feedback loops. Additionally, Philippine NGOs often possess expertise in advocacy, mobilization, and program implementation, further enhancing the reach and impact of projects and initiatives. Their involvement strengthens social accountability, promotes transparency, and ensures that the initiatives resonate with the aspirations and well-being of the Filipino people. Ultimately, the collaboration with Philippine NGOs enriches the partnership's outcomes, fostering sustainable development and positive change across the nation.

4.3 European Union

The EU Commission is a key partner in the harmonization of development cooperation within the EU and with other member states. Although there is no joint programming of European development cooperation in the Philippines, the respective planning is articulated through regular coordination as well as delegated cooperation, resulting in de facto joint implementation.

The process of drawing up the Multiannual Indicative Program 2021/27 for the Philippines (MIP) and the definition of "Team Europe" initiatives within this framework represents an opportunity to coordinate the EU's cooperation with that of the Member States, thus enhancing the impact of the global intervention. As a result of this effort, it seems that the aforementioned Program will concentrate in the Philippines on two priority areas a) Green, Resilient and Digital Economy and, b) Good Governance, Peace and Just Societies.

The Spanish Cooperation will assess the possibility of intervening in the "Team Europe" initiatives that may finally be promoted. The TEIs are part of a parallel negotiation process to that of the current Partnership Framework (CPF). Even in cases where there is no correspondence between the two strategic documents, the Spanish Cooperation will insist that the projects are aligned with the priorities of the Philippine government and the 2030 Agenda, that they address the needs of vulnerable populations and that they include gender mainstreaming.

4.4 Multilateral actors

United Nations

In addition to the role of monitoring and supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the Philippines, the Resident Coordinator's Office and several UN agencies contribute to the coordination of support to development policies in which Spanish Development Cooperation is involved. In some cases, there is joint implementation of System Agencies with AECID or with Spanish civil society organizations. Currently, work is being carried out with some agencies of the system: UNICEF (WASH), Coordination with the Joint Program on Human Development, and other actions that may be of common interest will be coordinated.

Similarly, during this period, Spain will actively participate in the coordination of efforts promoted by the

Humanitarian Coordination Team, led by OCHA, both in terms of immediate response to natural hazards and in strengthening work in the dual nexus (humanitarian-development) and the triple nexus (peace-humanitarian action and development).

World Bank and Asian Development Bank

The World Bank chairs the international development partners group. In addition to general coordination on development issues, joint operations may be identified within Co-financing Framework Agreement (CFA) through which FONPRODE may provide sovereign loans to finance public operations.

Joint financial cooperation interventions could also be explored with the Asian Development Bank, provided that a similar cofinancing framework is developed between the ADB and Spain. These partnerships can be used not only for project implementation, but also for monitoring, ensuring that interventions are implemented according to plan and can achieve the intended results, following the policies and procedures of the Multilateral as lead co-financier

Modalities, instruments and resources

Spanish development cooperation in the Philippines is mainly articulated through AECID. Although it would be desirable to try to promote greater participation by other Spanish entities responsible for ODA implementation, such as the autonomous communities and local governments, which is currently very limited.

The Spanish Development Cooperation actors involved in this CPF must make efforts to ensure that the majority of their budgets allocated to this country are aligned with the objectives, development results and intermediate results agreed in this CPF. The present agreement does not imply financial commitments, such commitments are established in subsequent documents corresponding to the different interventions, nonetheless the estimated budget forecast for the CPF could be of approximately 27 million euros.

Common working dynamics and approaches will be promoted, as well as knowledge management in the implementation of the components prioritized in this CPF.

5.1 Non-reimbursable grants

Non-reimbursable grants will continue to be articulated in the most vulnerable areas in partnership with national and local entities, as well as with civil society implementers and in coordination with other cooperation partners in line with the development results presented in this document.

Initiatives of Spanish NGDOs with their Philippine partners will also be funded through AECID calls for NGDOs.

Non reimbursable grants mostly intended to finance technical assistance complementary to reimbursable operations through Financial cooperation could also be explored through FONPRODE.

5.2 Cooperation through Spanish NGOs

Annual or periodic calls for Spanish NGDOs include the Philippines as a middle-income partner country. Funding for these programs is expected to be between 8 and 10 million euros from AECID for the period within the framework of this CPF.

5.3 Direct bilateral cooperation

AECID funding for bilateral cooperation projects is provided through state grants to Philippine public or private entities, and in some cases to United Nations agencies, for actions that fall within the framework of the country's national development policies. This funding can be in the form of both cash and in-kind grants. It may also involve the financing of Philippine interventions or the contribution through technical assistance provided directly by the AECID. Funding for the period 2021-2024 is expected to be between 6 and 8 million euros.

5.4 Multilateral cooperation

Spanish Cooperation also acts through multilateral organizations and the United Nations through trust funds, regional programs or multi-bilateral projects.

At the multilateral level, AECID's voluntary contributions to Organizations of the United Nations System include contributions to programs and projects of UNFPA, UNICEF, ILO, FAO, WHO, UNDP, UN Women and UN Habitat. These multilateral contributions are not geographically marked, without prejudice to the fact that they have national landings agreed upon at a later time between the signatory parties.

Bilateral interventions (geographically marked) with multilateral organizations in prioritized objectives are also possible.

On the other hand, AECID contributes to Global Funds specialized in different thematic areas, such as health, climate action, education or food security. Of the multilateral contributions to Global Funds included in this section, the Philippines is an eligible country in three of them, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the Pandemic Fund and the Alliance for Education (GPE).

5.5 EU delegated cooperation

AECID implements projects co-financed by the European Union under the delegated cooperation modality. 9 million is foreseen for the period under this modality in the Access to Justice and Civil Society component of the Bangsamoro Transition Support Project (SUBATRA) and in the human rights component of the Governance in Justice Project (GOJUST II), without ruling out any possible additional projects arising from the MIP 2021-2027.

The above resources are estimates and does not include the co-financing of the AECID that, according with the previous intervention, could be estimated at an additional 20% on EU funding (2 million). In any case, this agreement does not imply financial commitments; these commitments will be established in subsequent documents corresponding to the different interventions; their definitive allocation will be subject to budgetary availability and will be charged to the ordinary appropriations of the different actors involved.

5.6 Reimbursable Cooperation

The Fund for the Promotion of Development (FONPRODE) is an instrument made available for the use of the Spanish Cooperation system. It is set up as one of the main financial instruments of the Spanish Cooperation, managed by AECID to ensure responsiveness to the needs and objectives set by our development policy, making it one of the main channels to implement development aid. A reform of the Spanish financial cooperation is currently taking place, once that in 2023 a new Spanish Law on Development and Sustainable Cooperation and Global Solidarity has been approved. The new FEDES fund (Spanish Fund for Sustainable Development) will replace the current FONPRODE. FEDES will allow the use of new tools while maintaining the current ones and streamline the Fund's bureaucratic processes.

Reimbursable financial cooperation through FONPRODE/FEDES is a particularly appropriate modality for the Philippines, through all of its tools but, primarily, through State loans, that can contribute to implement public projects at national and subnational levels. In addition to State-to-state loans, there are possibilities of undertaking operations to participate in private equity funds, as well as operations in the field of microfinance.

The Asian Development Bank, the main provider of reimbursable funds in the Philippines stand out as a potential partner of the Spanish Cooperation in this field. Also the World Bank Group is to be a key partner for the Spanish Financial Cooperation since, Spain has a Co-financing Framework Agreement with the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Development Association, signed in 2019 for joint or parallel co-financing public investment projects through State loans.

Similarly, reimbursable financial cooperation generates a natural space wherein public-private partnerships for development could attract the participation of the Spanish private sector.

Within the framework of Prevention Policies highlighted in the Strategic Guideline - Reducing inequalities and vulnerability to extreme poverty and to economic crises – financing opportunities of this type can be identified. Indeed, the Spanish Cooperation has an important comparative advantage in this area compared to other donors, with the possibility, as requested by the Philippine authorities, of reproducing and spreading successful practices in the field of DRR and the strengthening of local, provincial and national resilience mechanisms.

Humanitarian Action

The Triple Nexus approach, as applied by the Spanish Cooperation in the Philippines, represents an innovative and holistic strategy that integrates humanitarian action, development, and peacebuilding efforts. This approach acknowledges the complex and interconnected challenges faced by vulnerable populations in the Philippines, where natural disasters, conflict, and chronic poverty often coexist and exacerbate each other. By adopting the Triple Nexus framework, the Spanish Cooperation aims to deliver more coherent and effective assistance that not only addresses immediate humanitarian needs but also contributes to long-term

development and fosters conditions conducive to peace. In regions affected by natural disasters, Spanish Cooperation initiatives might include immediate relief operations (humanitarian component), alongside efforts to rebuild resilient infrastructure and improve local governance (development component), while also promoting dialogue and reconciliation among communities (peace component). This comprehensive approach ensures that interventions are not just addressing the symptoms of crises but are also tackling their root causes, thereby building the foundation for sustainable development and stability in the Philippines.

Although humanitarian action is more difficult to plan within this CPF, it is appropriate to mention this instrument, which operates regularly in the Philippines through international organizations and Spanish NGOs, with the possibility of bilateral interventions. Given the nature of this instrument, it is not possible to establish a financial forecast.

As mentioned above, possible humanitarian actions that go beyond immediate attention to natural hazards or the effects of armed conflict will be articulated with public policies or medium-term development actions in order to strengthen the humanitarian-development and humanitarian-peace- development nexus.'

stability, making it a key priority for achieving lasting positive outcomes. Overcoming the aforementioned problems opens up enormous potential for the development of a country in terms of knowledge, human resources and capital.

See Risk Table in Annex

Risks and Opportunities

The country's macroeconomic stability, with sustained economic growth and controlled levels of inflation, debt and fiscal deficit, provides a good environment for reducing poverty and vulnerability through effective policies. It is hoped that the early discovery of effective vaccines against COVID-19 will only slightly delay the achievement of these goals as the country can soon return to growth. However, it warns of areas in which growth may not only fail to bring progress, but may have a greater impact, such as environmental issues, peace and security, the shadow economy, human trafficking and malnutrition.

The limited presence of the state in various regions, particularly in addressing conflict and delivering public services, poses a challenge to overcoming poverty, violence, or instability. Recognizing this, it becomes crucial to proactively incorporate the enhancement of governance across all projects. Strengthening governance not only addresses these challenges directly but also lays a solid foundation for sustainable development and

MONITORING, EVALUATION AND MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY

8.1 Monitoring

Spain places importance on monitoring and evaluating the impact of its programs. By working closely with national agencies, LGUs and connected agencies, Spain ensures that development objectives are met, resources are used efficiently, and lessons learned are applied to future projects. This commitment to accountability and learning enhances the effectiveness of their assistance.

The development of the Partnership Framework, due to its nature as a shared alliance strategy with the country towards common objectives and visions of human development and eradication of poverty, must integrate the maximum number of development actors possible, maintain dialogue close and joint work with both the partner country (government, institutions, parliaments and civil society) as with other donors and strengthen coordination between the actors themselves of Spanish Cooperation.

The general coordination of the preparation of the MAP, as well as its implementation, Monitoring and evaluation will be carried out by the MAEC, through the Directorate General for Sustainable Development Policies (DGPOLDES), specifically in the Area of Development Effectiveness and Policy Coherence and in the Evaluation Division.

The basic organizational structure for the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Country Partnership Framework in Steering Committee, Grupo Estable de Coordinación (GEC), which will be convened by the Embassy and technically coordinated by the Spanish Cooperation Office (OCE). It will be necessary to facilitate in each case the participation of actors specialized in gender issues, and to the extent that the country context allows it in human rights, diversities and environmental sustainability.

The OCE will lead the process from the GEC as it is the institution that has, in most of the partner countries, with a larger and better structure. Each Steering Committee (EC) actor with presence on the ground that participates in the GEC must guarantee adequate coordination with its headquarters.

The MAP process must incorporate the transversal

priorities of: rights-based approach, gender, environment and diversities. The people responsible for at the OCE and headquarters, has to guarantee the transversal integration of said approaches.

At headquarters, the process will be led and coordinated by the DGPOLDES, guaranteeing participation in the process of EC actors not present on the ground who show their interest in do it.

In addition, the DGPOLDES will provide advice and methodological support both at the level of specific consultations such as the review of the drafts of the different stages, verifying its internal coherence, the quality of the content and avoiding possible contradictions in the strategic logic followed in the development of the Partnership Framework. This means offering precise guidelines, contrasted with AECID or other actors (as the case may be), so that OCE receive clear messages and within reasonable deadlines.

The following monitoring, evaluation and mutual accountability scheme will be put in place to provide a regular overview of progress towards the achievement of the Spanish Cooperation's intermediate results in the country, as well as of the most relevant aspects linked to the implementation of the CPF.

In the Philippines, permanent communication will be maintained with Philippine counterparts, articulated by NEDA. Internally, on the part of the Spanish Cooperation, monitoring will be carried out through the Steering Committee, Grupo Estable de Coordinación (GEC) chaired by the Spanish Ambassador and managed by the Spanish Cooperation Office (OCE), which, in addition to the AECID, includes the sectoral offices of the Embassy, companies and civil society.

In Spain, the Directorate General of Cooperation Policies for Sustainable Development (DGPOLDES) and the AECID will participate periodically in the monitoring, integrating with the rest of the relevant actors at headquarters within the Extended Country Team (EPA) and the Platform for Consultation at Headquarters (PCS).

Monitoring will be carried out at two levels:

- Strategic level. A monitoring committee, consisting of NEDA and the Spanish Cooperation, will meet in the mid-term of the CPF period to

assess progress and take strategic decisions on the results.

- Operational level. The aforementioned monitoring committee will meet once a year to jointly review the progress of the different projects under implementation. This work will take advantage of the information contained in the six-monthly reports that the Spanish Cooperation Office sends to NEDA, which will include a review of the fulfilment of the development results indicators and the intermediate results linked to them.

Interventions will have their own monitoring and accountability system, with bi-annual steering committee meetings in the case of bilateral projects. The technical and financial monitoring reports, assessments, evaluations and audits of each of the interventions will feed into the overall monitoring and accountability system, as well as the overall evaluation of the CPF upon its completion.

The Steering Committee will be the link with Spanish Cooperation's actors present in the country. Beside quarterly meetings with Spanish NGOs, to which other actors may be invited, six-monthly steering committee follow-up meetings will be held, which may be extended annually to other Spanish actors and which will coincide with the operational and strategic monitoring reports.

Considering the important role of non-governmental organizations in the implementation of Spain's official development cooperation in the Philippines, a strong coordination mechanism will be established to ensure the organization's legitimacy.

8.2 Assessment

The final closure evaluation will be carried out in time for its results to feed into the new bilateral agreement. At the beginning of the temporal scope of the CPF, technical studies will be carried out to include the system of indicators and baseline measurements to allow for an effective final evaluation. The final evaluation should include recommendations for the next CPF.

8.3 Mutual accountability and transparency

In the interests of transparency and mutual accountability, both parties will promote the relevant

strategies to inform the actors involved and the public about CPF activities, publishing on their respective institutional websites the minutes of the Joint Commission, CPF monitoring reports and information on the projects. Likewise, both parties will promote informative actions aimed at their respective institutions and actors involved in the execution of this agreement, and at society in general.

The aforementioned monitoring committee is the body responsible for the design and execution of the CPF's joint accountability policy. Within this framework, it will establish additional measures to those already described to communicate and promote transparency in relation to the CPF and its implementation, disseminating the joint work, the results achieved, and the concrete benefits obtained by the target population. The use of social media and official websites will be encouraged for this work.

Annex I. Results Framework

OVERALL OBJECTIVE of the CPF Philippines-Spain 2023-2028			
Contribute to the consolidation of a more efficient democratic state that guarantees peace, justice, equity and the construction of a society resilient to the adverse effects of climate change and natural hazards.			
Results		Indicators	Means of Verification
Developmental Results 1			
1. Enhanced peaceful coexistence, improved respect for human rights, and increased access to justice for the vulnerable population in targeted territories in the Philippines.	<p>1.1 Improved peaceful coexistence in targeted territories, demonstrated by a significant reduction in reported incidents of conflict and violence due to interventions supported by Spanish cooperation.</p> <p>1.2 Improved awareness and exercise of human rights among vulnerable populations in targeted territories, driven by effective educational and advocacy initiatives supported by Spanish cooperation.</p>	<p>1.1.1 Decrease in reported incidents of conflict and violence in the targeted territories, reflecting enhanced peaceful coexistence as a result of interventions.</p> <p>1.1.2 Increase in reported cases resolved through formal or informal justice systems.</p> <p>1.2.1 Number of people trained in human rights educational and advocacy initiatives supported by Spanish cooperation.</p>	<p>Analysis of official reports from local law enforcement and security agencies detailing the number and nature of violent incidents before and after the intervention: Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, Bureau of Corrections</p> <p>Surveys within the community to gather firsthand accounts of perceived changes in the level of conflict and violence.</p> <p>Training and Workshop Records: Documentation of the number and reach of training sessions, workshops, and advocacy campaigns conducted, including participant demographics and feedback.</p> <p>Surveys conducted before and after human rights education and advocacy interventions to measure changes in awareness levels.</p>

	<p>1.3 Increased adherence to the rule of law and enhanced access to justice in targeted areas, as measured by expanded legal aid services and improved efficiency of judicial processes for vulnerable populations.</p>	<p>1.3.1 Number of people who improve their access to justice in the intervention framework.</p> <p>1.3.2 Number of state institutions and non-state actors specialized in defense of human rights and fight against the discrimination that has seen their capacities within the framework of the intervention.</p>	<p>Reports from the Commission on Human Rights, Spanish Cooperation Project Evaluations: Evaluations of specific projects aimed at enhancing access to justice, detailing the scope of support provided and the impact on case resolutions.</p> <p>Reports from Spanish cooperation-supported projects, documenting specific peacebuilding activities and their outcomes in the targeted areas.</p>
Developmental Results 2			
<p>Advancing the promotion of a green economy that is inclusive, efficient, sustainable, and resilient to climate change, through participatory national and local policies aimed at reducing poverty</p>	<p>2.1 Increased access to clean and renewable energy due to interventions supported by Spanish cooperation.</p> <p>2.2 Increased access to safe and affordable drinking water and adequate sanitation within a framework of sustainable water resources management due to interventions supported by Spanish cooperation.</p> <p>2.3 Enhanced economic growth and sustainable development in targeted communities through support for green entrepreneurship, innovation, and sustainable tourism initiatives.</p>	<p>2.1.1 Number of people with access to clean and renewable energy supported by Spanish Cooperation</p> <p>2.2.1 Number of people with access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities for vulnerable populations supported by Spanish Cooperation</p> <p>2.3.1 Number of green businesses and sustainable tourism ventures launched and sustained with the support of the project, contributing to local economic development and environmental sustainability.</p>	<p>Reports from Spanish cooperation-supported projects, documenting specific access to clean and renewable energy.</p> <p>Impact Assessment Reports: Reports from NGOs, research institutions, or development agencies assessing the socio-economic impacts of green economy projects on poverty reduction in the Philippines with Spanish cooperation support including qualitative studies and beneficiary testimonials.</p> <p>Reports from Spanish cooperation-supported projects, documenting specific access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities.</p> <p>Impact Assessment Reports: Reports from NGOs, research institutions, or development agencies assessing the socio-economic impacts of green economy projects on poverty reduction in the Philippines with Spanish cooperation support</p>

	<p>2.4 Enhanced capacity of local and national authorities to effectively protect the environment and increase resilience against climate impacts, while also focusing on the protection and restoration of critical water-related ecosystems, such as forests, wetlands, and rivers, in targeted regions.</p>	<p>2.4.1 Number of people receiving information and education environmental, climate change and disaster risk reduction within the framework of the intervention.</p> <p>2.4.2 Number of hectares of protected natural areas, sustainably managed and/or reforested within the framework of the intervention.</p>	<p>including qualitative studies and beneficiary testimonials.</p> <p>Reports from Spanish cooperation-supported projects, documenting specific access to information and education environmental, climate change and disaster risk reduction.</p> <p>Reports from Spanish cooperation-supported projects of number of hectares of natural areas that have remained protected, which have remained under sustainable management models or that have been reforested within the framework of the intervention. Also includes hectares under anti-desertification measures or conservation measures and/or sustainable use of natural resources.</p>
Developmental Results 3			
<p>Increased participation of women and youth in political and economic spheres, alongside strengthened governance structures, with a particular focus on empowering indigenous women and youth in the most marginalized regions</p>	<p>3.1 Enhanced access to economic resources and property ownership for indigenous women in targeted areas.</p> <p>3.2 Increased adoption of gender-inclusive and youth-participatory policies by Philippine public institutions and organizations</p> <p>3.3 Strengthened mechanisms to address gender-based violence with a targeted approach to empowering women in the most marginalized regions.</p>	<p>3.1.1 Number of indigenous women who own property or have access to significant economic resources as a result of interventions supported by the Spanish Cooperation.</p> <p>3.2.1 Number of public bodies/instances and organizations of specialized civil society in charge of promoting and monitor equality and non-discrimination that they have seen their capacities reinforced within the framework of the intervention.</p> <p>3.3.1 Number of women victims of gender violence (VVG) who have received assistance or attention within the framework of the intervention of some kind (information, reception, legal, psychological and health assistance).</p>	<p>Reports from Spanish cooperation-supported projects, documenting the amount of indigenous women who have access to significant economic resources.</p> <p>Annual surveys and audits of organizational structures before and after interventions, disaggregated by gender, to track changes in women's representation in leadership and decision-making positions: Philippine Commission on Women, Election Records and Statistics Department, Commission on Elections</p> <p>Reports from Spanish cooperation-supported projects, documenting the amount of women who have received assistance or attention of some kind.</p>

	3.4 Increased access of youth to vocational training and employment.	3.4.1 Number of young people who receive technical-vocational training within the framework of the intervention	Reports from Spanish cooperation-supported projects, documenting specific young people access to information and technical -vocational labor training.
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Annex II. Alliances Network

MAP ALLIANCES NETWORK PHILIPPINES - SPAIN

Coverage	Name	
Spanish Cooperation Actors	Spanish NGOs	<p>Creating a Country Partnership Framework (CPF) between Spain and the Philippines involves a multifaceted approach to cooperation and development. Spanish Cooperation Actors, including government agencies, NGOs, and various stakeholders, engage in a collaborative effort to assess the needs and priorities of the Philippines comprehensively. This assessment includes identifying the country's developmental challenges and aligning them with the national development plans and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the Philippines. Collaboration with Philippine government agencies, ministries, and local authorities is integral to building strategic partnerships and ensuring effective coordination.</p> <p>Spanish Cooperation Actors design and implement projects and programs across diverse sectors, such as education, healthcare, infrastructure, environment, and</p>
	Spanish Universities	
	Businesses, Private Sector and Trade Unions	

		<p>governance, to address identified needs and priorities. Capacity-building support is often provided to enhance the capabilities of Philippine institutions and organizations. A crucial aspect of Spanish cooperation is the continuous monitoring and evaluation of projects, which allows for adjustments and ensures the efficient use of resources. Gender equality, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability are prioritized in all initiatives, aiming to create equitable and lasting development outcomes.</p> <p>In addition to their development efforts, Spanish Cooperation Actors may engage in humanitarian assistance and crisis response during natural disasters or crises, providing essential relief and support. Advocacy efforts, knowledge sharing, and collaboration with international development organizations help promote development issues and share best practices. Transparency and accountability mechanisms are established to maintain the responsible use of funds and ensure that cooperation efforts remain accountable to stakeholders in both Spain and the Philippines.</p> <p>The CPF is a dynamic framework subject to periodic review and adaptation. Spanish Cooperation Actors, along with their Filipino counterparts, regularly assess progress, challenges, and opportunities, allowing for adjustments to the framework to address evolving needs effectively. In summary, Spanish Cooperation Actors in the Philippines work in close collaboration with local partners and stakeholders to address development challenges, prioritize sustainability and inclusivity, and promote effective cooperation for meaningful and lasting impact in the Philippines.</p>
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ACTORS IN THE PHILIPPINES	National Economic Development Authority (NEDA)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National Economic Development Authority (NEDA): NEDA plays a crucial role in coordinating and formulating economic development plans and policies for the Philippines. They collaborate with international partners to align development goals and prioritize projects that promote sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction. 2. Department of Finance (DOF): DOF is responsible for fiscal and monetary policy, revenue generation, and resource allocation. They work with international partners to manage financial resources effectively, attract foreign investments, and ensure fiscal sustainability. 3. Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA): DFA serves as the primary agency for the Philippines' foreign relations. They work with international partners like Spain to foster diplomatic ties, negotiate agreements, and facilitate cooperation in various sectors, including trade, education, and culture. 4. Department of Agriculture (DA): DA collaborates with international partners to enhance agricultural productivity, food security, and rural development. Cooperation with Spain may involve knowledge exchange, technical assistance, and sustainable agricultural practices. 5. Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity (OPAPRU): OPAPRU is
	Department of Finance (DOF)	
	Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA)	
	Department of Agriculture (DA)	
	Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity (OPAPRU)	
	Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)	
	Philippine Commission on Women (PCW)	
	Local Government Academy (LGA)	
	Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)	
	Office of Civil Defense (OCD)	
	Commission on Human Rights (CHR).	
	Department of Justice (DoJ)	
	Supreme Court of the Philippines	
	Climate Change Commission	
	Department of Education (DepEd)	
	Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA)	
	National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA)	
	Public local and regional authorities in the Philippines	

	Local government units	<p>instrumental in promoting peace and unity in conflict-affected areas of the Philippines. They engage with international partners, including Spain, to support peace-building initiatives and reconciliation efforts.</p> <p>6. Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG): DILG focuses on local governance and administration. They may work with Spain and other international partners to strengthen local government units, improve public service delivery, and enhance governance at the grassroots level.</p> <p>7. Philippine Commission on Women (PCW): PCW advocates for gender equality and women's empowerment. They collaborate with international partners to promote gender-responsive policies and programs, ensuring that development initiatives benefit all genders.</p> <p>8. Local Government Academy (LGA): LGA provides training and capacity-building programs for local government officials. They may partner with Spain to enhance the skills and capabilities of local leaders, promoting effective governance at the local level.</p> <p>9. Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD): DSWD focuses on social protection and welfare programs. They collaborate with international partners to address poverty, provide social services, and respond to humanitarian crises.</p> <p>10. Office of Civil Defense (OCD): OCD manages disaster risk reduction and response efforts. Collaboration with Spain may involve disaster preparedness, relief</p>
	Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (BARMM)	
	Bangsamoro Human Rights Commission (BHRC)	
	Bangsamoro Women's Commission (BWC)	
	Mindanao Development Authority (MINDA)	
	Philippine civil society organizations	
	Philippine universities	
	Department of Agrarian Reform Philippine Space Agency	

		<p>operations, and resilience-building initiatives.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Commission on Human Rights (CHR): CHR promotes and protects human rights in the Philippines. They engage with international partners, including Spain, to address human rights concerns, advocate for justice, and ensure accountability. 12. Department of Justice (DoJ): DoJ is responsible for the administration of justice and legal reforms. They may cooperate with Spain on legal and judicial capacity-building initiatives. 13. Supreme Court of the Philippines (SCJ): The Supreme Court oversees the judicial system in the Philippines. Collaboration with Spain may involve legal training, exchange programs, and initiatives to enhance the rule of law. 14. Climate Change Commission (CCC): CCC focuses on climate change mitigation and adaptation. Collaboration with Spain may include sharing best practices, technology transfer, and climate-resilience projects. 15. Department of Education (DepEd): DepEd is responsible for education policies and programs. They may collaborate with Spain on educational initiatives, teacher training, and curriculum development. 16. Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA): TESDA promotes technical and vocational education and training. Collaboration with Spain may involve skills development programs and vocational training opportunities.
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		<p>equitable land distribution, and rural development.</p> <p>23. The Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA) plays a crucial role in advancing space science and technology, promoting space applications for various sectors, and ensuring that the Philippines harnesses the benefits of space for economic development, disaster management, and scientific exploration. It also fosters international collaborations and partnerships to strengthen the country's position in the global space community.</p>
Actors from Other Countries	European Union	<p>1. European Union (EU): The EU is a significant partner in the Philippines' development efforts. It supports various sectors, including governance, education, health, and sustainable agriculture. The EU provides financial assistance, technical expertise, and policy guidance to promote good governance, human rights, and economic growth. Collaboration with the EU often involves the implementation of joint projects and programs that align with Philippine development priorities and the EU's objectives for regional stability and prosperity.</p> <p>2. United Nations (UN): The UN engages with the Philippines through its various agencies, programs, and specialized bodies. UN agencies such as UNDP, UNICEF, and UN Women work on a wide range of development issues, including poverty reduction, healthcare, education, disaster risk reduction, and human rights. The UN also plays a vital role in coordinating humanitarian assistance during crises and supports the Philippines in achieving its</p>
Multilateral actors	United Nations	
	World Bank	
	Asian Development Bank	

		<p>Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).</p> <p>3. World Bank: The World Bank collaborates with the Philippines on projects aimed at poverty reduction, infrastructure development, education, and healthcare. It provides financial resources, technical expertise, and policy advice to help the country achieve sustainable and inclusive growth. The World Bank's support often includes large-scale infrastructure projects, such as road and transportation improvements, which are critical for economic development.</p> <p>4. Asian Development Bank (ADB): The ADB is a significant partner in the Philippines' development agenda. It supports projects related to infrastructure, urban development, renewable energy, and social services. The ADB provides financing, technical assistance, and knowledge sharing to enhance economic growth and reduce poverty. Collaboration with the ADB includes initiatives to strengthen governance, promote private sector engagement, and ensure environmental sustainability.</p>
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Annex III. RISK MATRIX

RISK MATRIX				
DEFINED FOR SPANISH COOPERATION IN THE COUNTRY				
TYPE OF RISK	RISK IDENTIFIED	LEVEL OF IMPACT	PROBABILITY/ LIKELIHOOD	MITIGATION MEASURES
ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL	Inadequate engagement with stakeholders could lead to opposition and project delays.	HIGH	MEDIUM	Establish ongoing dialogue with all stakeholders, incorporate their feedback into project planning, and ensure transparent communication. Implement Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) processes and engage with local communities to understand cultural sensitivities.
	Risk of infringing on the rights, practices and traditions of Indigenous Peoples	HIGH	MEDIUM	

	Vulnerability to climate change impacts, disasters and natural hazards affecting operations and communities.	HIGH	HIGH	Develop a climate adaptation and disaster resilience plan and set-up contingencies.
FINANCIAL	Project implementation and operational efficiency may be adversely affected by delays in receiving funding	HIGH	LOW	Enhance financial planning and fund disbursement and management practices. Maintain a reserve fund for unforeseen delays when possible.
OPERATIONAL	Projects or initiatives may not align with the Philippines' national priorities, leading to potential conflicts, reduced impact, or loss of support. Ineffective leadership and management practices could undermine project success and organizational credibility. A lack of flexibility in operations could limit the organization's ability to seize emerging opportunities or adapt to unexpected challenges. Missing opportunities to create synergies with other initiatives could result in	HIGH HIGH MEDIUM MEDIUM	LOW HIGH MEDIUM MEDIUM	Engage in continuous dialogue with government stakeholders to ensure alignment with national development plans and adapt projects as necessary to reflect shifting priorities through semi-annual meetings (each six-month) with the Philippine authorities (NEDA). Ensure hiring of a project team with the right qualifications and experience, establish clear roles and responsibilities, and foster a culture of accountability and continuous improvement. Develop agile project management frameworks that allow for timely adjustments to strategies and operations and establish a process for identifying and assessing new opportunities. Regularly map related initiatives and explore collaboration opportunities to leverage resources,

	<p>duplicated efforts and suboptimal outcomes.</p> <p>Inadequate reporting and communication can lead to misunderstandings, stakeholder dissatisfaction, and missed opportunities for feedback and improvement.</p> <p>Unreliable or misaligned partnerships could jeopardize project outcomes and resource utilization.</p> <p>National partners may lack the necessary skills, knowledge, or resources to effectively contribute to or sustain project outcomes.</p> <p>Lack of a clear transition or exit strategy may result in the unsustainability of project benefits.</p>	<p>HIGH</p> <p>MEDIUM</p> <p>MEDIUM</p> <p>MEDIUM</p>	<p>MEDIUM</p> <p>LOW</p> <p>MEDIUM</p> <p>MEDIUM</p>	<p>share knowledge, and amplify impact.</p> <p>Implement robust reporting and communication protocols, ensuring timely, transparent, and effective information exchange with all-stakeholders through the GEC (Country Coordination Group).</p> <p>Establish clear partnership agreements, and maintain regular communication to ensure alignment and address issues promptly.</p> <p>Design and implement comprehensive capacity-building programs for national partners, tailored to their specific needs and contexts.</p> <p>Develop and implement a phased transition or exit plan, including capacity building and resource allocation, to ensure the sustainability of project impacts beyond the project lifecycle.</p>
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POLITICAL	<p>There is a risk that government commitment to the project or initiative may wane over time due to changing priorities, leading to reduced support or resources.</p> <p>High turnover or significant changes in government personnel can lead to shifts in priorities and support for projects, potentially stalling or derailing initiatives.</p>	<p>HIGH</p> <p>HIGH</p>	<p>MEDIUM</p> <p>MEDIUM</p>	<p>Regularly demonstrate and communicate the benefits of the project to maintain and renew commitment.</p> <p>Establish relationships with a broad spectrum of political figures and civil servants to ensure project support is not dependent on specific individuals. Document agreements and secure formal commitments where possible to ensure continuity beyond political cycles.</p>
SAFETY AND SECURITY	<p>The presence or potential for armed conflict in the project area poses a risk to the safety of personnel and the overall project implementation.</p>	<p>HIGH</p>	<p>MEDIUM</p>	<p>Conduct conflict analysis and risk assessments. Consider partnerships with local organizations for community-based security approaches and contingency planning for evacuation or project suspension if necessary.</p>

	<p>The threat or occurrence of terrorist attacks could endanger lives, disrupt project activities.</p> <p>Civil unrest and protests can lead to disruptions in project operations, risks to personnel safety</p>	<p>HIGH</p> <p>HIGH</p>	<p>MEDIUM</p> <p>MEDIUM</p>	<p>Collaborate with local law enforcement and security experts to stay informed on potential threats.</p> <p>Monitor local socio-political developments closely to anticipate potential unrest. Develop guidelines for staff on how to respond during incidents of civil unrest, including communication plans and safe zones.</p>
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