



## **EUROPEAN UNION**

Delegation of the European Union to  
the Philippines

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### **EU expands its support to the peace process in Mindanao with a new grant of PHP 460 million**

In the aftermath of the adoption of the "Decision Points on Principles" by the Government of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in April, which signalled significant progress in the negotiation, the EU adopted a new € 9 million (or PhP 460 million) grant programme to further support the peace process.

This assistance package will enable the EU to expand its support for the peaceful negotiation and hopefully implementation of an agreement over the next 3 years through its continuing participation in the International Monitoring Team (IMT)

With the programme, the EU will continue to answer invitations by the parties to assist further in the peace process through several components.

Firstly, it will continue to lead the Humanitarian, Rehabilitation, and Development Component of the IMT and increase its support to the local and international Non-Governmental Organisations that comprise the latter's Civilian Protection Component.

Secondly, it will provide increased funding to the International Contact Group through its informal non-governmental coordinator.

Thirdly, it will support a series of confidence-building measures, including the joint clearing of unexploded ordnances and the promotion of women's rights, as well as various initiatives in the fields of governance and security still to be determined.

As explained by Ambassador Ledoux: "With this comprehensive three-fold assistance, the EU intends to help the Parties achieve and put into effect a peacefully negotiated settlement to the conflict which is the unique way to ultimately bring peace and prosperity in Mindanao and for the benefit of the whole country".

This renewed involvement and expanded support from the EU is another illustration of its commitment to promote conflict resolution based on democratic values and respect for human rights, justice and solidarity, economic prosperity and sustainable development.

"Despite all the international support drawing on valuable experience and expertise gained elsewhere, it is the duty of the Parties to find for themselves with the approval of their constituents, an acceptable and durable solution to a conflict that has lasted for far too long" the Ambassador said.

This new contribution follows on two previous EU programmes in support to the peace process bringing the total EU financial contribution to € 13 million or PhP 660 million.

It is in 2008, in the context of the relapse into armed conflict following the failed Memorandum of Agreement on Ancestral Domain that the EU decided to support local and international efforts to encourage a resumption of peace negotiations.

This decision by the EU to directly support the promotion of peace as well as two years later to take part in the International Monitoring Team, was notably aimed at complementing its significant humanitarian, rehabilitation, and development cooperation to address the root causes and the immediate consequences of the conflict.

Since the 1990s, the EU has been active in helping address poverty and development in Mindanao as a contribution for the advancement of the on-going peace negotiations between the parties to the conflict.

More than €170 million (PhP 9 billion) in grant funding has gone towards programmes such as:

1. The rehabilitation of internally displaced persons.
2. Institution Building.
3. Increasing the revenues of the most vulnerable members of society and responding to humanitarian crises.