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The Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Palau to the United Nations and, with reference to the latter's Note 62/PM/2015 dated 13 May 2015 regarding the Post-Forum Dialogue Reassessment of Partnership, has the honor to submit the attached inputs from the Philippines for the Post-Forum Dialogue Partner Re-assessment Reporting.

The Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Palau to the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 02 July 2015



Post-Forum Dialogue Partner Re-assessment Reporting

Assessment Criteria	Report Narrative
<p>1. Long-established historical links with the region¹ which may include significant security links</p>	<p>The Philippines has long enjoyed extensive and warm relations with countries in the South Pacific. It has established formal diplomatic relations with most of the PIF-member countries.²</p> <p>It may be recalled that in 2000, the Philippines was admitted to the PIF as a Dialogue Partner and through the dialogue partner relationship, the Philippines had undertaken several meaningful development-oriented projects with the small island states in PIF.</p> <p>The Philippines and Australia, a PIF member country, signed a <u>Status of Visiting Forces Agreement (SOVFA)</u> in May 2007. The SOVFA provides a comprehensive legal framework that will govern the Australian Defense Force (ADF) personnel visits, entry and departure conditions, how training and exercises are to be conducted, carriage of arms, criminal jurisdiction provisions, and environmental protection, among others. It was ratified by the Australian Parliament in August 2007. The Philippine Senate ratified the SOVFA in July 2012.</p> <p>The Philippines holds regular security and defense talks with PIF members Australia and New Zealand.</p>
<p>2. Level of trade and investment links with the region</p>	<p>The Philippines' bilateral trade with all PIF member countries in 2014 amounted to US \$2.06 billion. Although more than half of this amount is comprised of the Philippines' trade with Australia and New Zealand, trade with other PIF member countries is slowly increasing. Additionally, Philippines companies have started to take note of the investment potential of the region especially in the area of fisheries, canning, and tourism.</p>
<p>3. Long term commitment to the region through participation in regional</p>	<p>The Philippines has been participating in the Post-Forum Dialogue Partner's Plenary Session since its acceptance as Dialogue Partner in 2000.</p>

¹The Pacific region includes all sixteen Forum member countries (Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Republic of Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu). For this exercise, links with other states in the Pacific Ocean may be reflected also at Partner's discretion.

²The Philippines has established formal diplomatic relations with almost all PIF-member countries, with the exception of Niue.

Assessment Criteria	Report Narrative
and sub-regional organizations/networks and/or; the establishment of diplomatic missions and/or;through regular political dialogue with the forum	<p>The Philippines has established formal diplomatic relations with fifteen (15) of the sixteen (16) PIF countries, the exception being Niue.³ It has 3 embassies (in Canberra, Wellington, Port Moresby) in the region. Diplomatic relations with the Republic of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Marshall Islands are directly managed from Manila by the Office of Asia and Pacific Affairs of the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines.</p>
4. Cultural and social identification with communities in the region	<p>Apart from the Philippines' long maritime tradition which fostered its strong cultural links to the Asia-Pacific region, the presence of 281,412 Filipinos⁴ living and working in the region further enhanced relations, especially people-to-people relations, between the country and the Pacific Island countries. These Filipinos have been productive and active members of their host communities.</p> <p>Likewise, the Philippines is host to hundreds of students from PIF countries (PNG, Palau and Vanuatu). These students go back to their home countries with their awareness of Philippine culture.</p>
5. Development effectiveness and ODA assistance to the region through bilateral, regional and multilateral programmes.	<p>The Department of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines and the Technical Cooperation Council of the Philippines (TCCP) have offered to extend capacity building programs under the South-South Cooperation to PIF members during the PIF Post Forum Dialogues in 2013 and 2014.</p> <p>Some of the capacity building programs that the Philippines have offered are in the fields of education, healthcare, agriculture, and tourism.</p>
6. Shared interests or common positions on key international issues.	<p>The Philippines and PIF countries continue to cooperate and support each other's candidatures in the United Nations and other international organizations.</p> <p><u>Climate Change.</u> The Philippines, as an archipelagic state, shares the vulnerability of PIF countries to climate change. The Philippines is a Party both of the</p>

³The Philippines is studying Niue's proposal to establish formal diplomatic relations.

⁴ The figure is as of December 2014.

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	<p>United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol.</p> <p><u>Sustainable development.</u> Like PIF member countries, the Philippines has taken important steps to protect its own reefs and the marine life they host through the Sustainable Coral Reef Ecosystem management Program. This is to effectively protect and rehabilitate the coral reefs of the region which provides food and income for more than 100 million people working in marine-based industries throughout the Asia-Pacific region.</p> <p>The Philippines, being at the apex of the Coral Triangle, is a partner-nation of the Coral Triangle Initiative on Coral reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF). The triangle also covers the exclusive economic zones of PIF members Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands.⁵</p> <p><u>Fisheries.</u> The Philippines is committed to promote effective management of fish resources in order to achieve the long-term conservation and sustainable use of highly migratory fish stocks in the western and central Pacific Ocean in accordance with the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), the UN Fish Stocks Agreement, and the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries (WCPF) Convention.</p>

END

⁵The EEZs of the following countries are also covered by the triangle: Indonesia, Malaysia, Timor-Leste, Philippines.